Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-034
Thursday
20 February 1992

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Israel

"A small IDF unit" began operations north of the security zone aimed at finding rocket launchers and "terrorist bases," according to official military sources cited by Jerusalem radio. "The unit will remain in the area for a limited time and will return to its base after completing its mission," the radio continued. Two UN soldiers were wounded in unclear circumstances, the radio disclosed, adding that after rockets were fired into the Galilee, Israeli retaliation continued "with a vengeance," according to UN sources. Shamir told Jerusalem television's Arabic service that the country "is not and will not restrain itself." The foreign minister again criticized his Lebanese counterpart's remarks in support of Hizballah, the radio disclosed. Air Force planes hit a "Hizballah target" north of the security zone on 19 February. Elsewhere, Yitzhaq Rabin won the Labor Party primaries to become the party's new chairman, according to Jerusalem radio, which added that deposed leader Shim'on Peres promised to cooperate with Rabin in the name of party unity.

Lebanon

In response to the Israeli operation, Hizballah urged a "general and full mobilization" of forces, the Voice of the Oppressed announced. Hasan Nasrallah, the party's recently named secretary general, urged residents to "stand fast" and use "all available means" in defense, Beirut radio added. A Defense Ministry statement broadcast by Voice of Lebanon said that "the Lebanese Army continues to follow orders" and that the Army commander is "personally supervising the situation."

Syria

The country will participate in the next round of Arab-Israeli talks "despite Israel's military escalation in southern Lebanon," according to Foreign Minister al-Shar', whose remarks were reported by Radio Monte Carlo.

Palestinian Affairs

The Palestinian delegation "finally decided to attend the peace talks after issuing an announcement to the contrary yesterday," according to spokesperson Hanan 'Ashrawi, whose remarks at a Jerusalem press conference were reported by Tel Aviv radio. The delegation subsequently departed for Amman en route for Washington, Jerusalem radio added. 'Arafat canceled a visit to Syria and Jordan in light of events in Lebanon, the Amman paper AKHBAR AL-USBU' disclosed.

Libya

The judge presiding over the Lockerbie investigation held a news conference that was reported by JANA. In it, Ahmad al-Zawawi stressed that Libyan law does not permit extradition, and that the accused will be tried in Libyan criminal courts. The agency's political editor termed as "fabricated and unfounded" reports in Western media that the country is trying to acquire Russian submarines. "Heat-detecting television cameras" have been installed on surface-to-air missiles to thwart a possible attack by U.S. Stealth aircraft, the Beirut paper AL-DIYAR affirmed.

Egypt

An article in the 21 February issue of AL-MUSAWWAR will report that the mission of an Israeli Arab detained on espionage charges was to assassinate Butrus Ghali during the elections for UN secretary general, MENA disclosed; the plan's aim was to "revive the sectarian problem in Egypt," the agency continued.

Pakistan

The foreign secretary is "encouraged" by his Washington talks on nuclear issues, according to a spokesman cited by Islamabad radio. Denying that he said the United States would certify that Islamabad does not have the ability to manufacture nuclear weapons, the foreign secretary "only said that the talks were very encouraging," the spokesman continued. The minister of state for foreign affairs said that while the country "has acquired certain technical capability in the nuclear field," politicians "at the highest level" have decided to use such capability "only for peaceful purposes," the radio continued.

Iraq

A week-long conference of Iraqi ambassadors opened at the Foreign Ministry; Baghdad radio and INA reported on speeches by the foreign minister, prime minister, and other officials. Saddam received the ambassadors as part of the activities, the agency reported.

Jordan

The opening of the new American Embassy in Amman "raises a thousand questions in terms of its hugeness and equipment," according to AKHIR KHABAR, which examined security and functional questions of the building as well. AL-RIBAT, the Muslim Brotherhood's weekly, was banned from distribution for the third time in four months "because it slandered" 'Arafat and King Fahd, according to press officials cited by the JORDAN TIMES.

Arabian Peninsula

Tehran radio reported that "dozens" of antigovernment activists have been arrested recently. In the United Arab Emirates, the son of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was received by a number of officials upon arrival.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Information Committee Opens Session

NC1602214992 Cairo Egyptian Space Channel in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Excerpt] The 49th session of the Arab League Standing Committee on Arab Information opened this morning at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo. The committee will discuss ways of bolstering Arab information cooperation. It will also seek to formulate a new Arab information strategy that is compatible with recent international changes and the new international order.

Other topics on the committee's agenda include the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied Arab territories, the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, the best way of utilizing Arabsat, and cooperation with Africa in information and communication.

Arab League Assistant Secretary General Dawi Suwaydan opened the session with a speech in which he noted that this session comes after a hiatus of over a year and a half due to the crisis in the Arab world. Suwaydan said that Arab countries should overcome their differences and base their relations on a sound foundation. Suwaydan noted the need to formulate an Arab information strategy compatible with international changes. [passage omitted]

Arab League, GCC Sign Memorandum of Understanding

NC1902222692

[Editorial Report] Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1408 GMT on 19 February carries a 500-word report on the signing in Cairo of a "memorandum of understanding" between the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. The memorandum stresses cooperation and coordination between the two bodies and their adherence to the Arab League Charter, the Joint Arab Defense Pact, international law, and non-intervention in the internal affairs of countries. It stresses respect for "every country's right to its natural resources."

The memorandum says the two sides regard the Damascus Declaration's principles as a positive step in inter-Arab relations and collective Arab endeavor.

It notes the need for Arab League-GCC coordination to promote joint goals and economic growth and to support Arab causes, notably the Palestinian issue. The memorandum says a just and lasting peace in the Middle East must be based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Referring to lessons drawn from Iraq's aggression against Kuwait, the two bodies stress "the need to respect Arab legitimacy as represented by the Arab League's Charter and resolutions."

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Development Bank Meets in Tripoli

LD1802122192 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] The work of the 16th annual meeting of the board of governors of the Islamic Development Bank opened this morning at the People's Hall in Tripoli with the participation of 44 states at the level of finance ministers and [central bank] governors. The opening session was attended by President Blaise Compaore, head of state in the Burkinabe Jamahiriyah. It was also attended by the secretary and members of the secretariat of the General People's Congress, some members of the General People's Committee, Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Organisation Dr Ahmed Algabid, the brother secretary of the World Islamic Call Society, chairman of the Islamic Development Bank Dr Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali, Director of the African Development Bank Dr Baracar N'Diaye, the brother secretary of Arab Maghreb Union affairs and the brother secretary of the People's Committee of the Municipality of Tripoli. It was also attended by heads and members of diplomatic missions accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Bank Governors

LD1902224592 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2014 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Address by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to governors of the Islamic Development Bank at a banquet in Tripoli on 19 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brothers:

It gives us pleasure to greet you on behalf of your brothers, Libyan men and women whose morale has been lifted today thanks to this international Islamic gathering on their land, which is at the same time your land. The land of Islam.

I should like to praise the efforts of those in charge of the Islamic Development Bank, led by Dr. Ahmad Muhammad, known for his militancy and devotion for Islam through this important body.

The battle used to be fought by the sword. Today, however, the battle is fought by the dinar and the dollar. Military war has become economic war; he who fights for development and social and economic progress is the true fighter in this era.

The battle is that of production, productivity, export, markets, and obtaining the biggest quantities of hard currency. These economic operations have replaced military operations and the jihad in which our nation used to engage in the past, under the banner of Islam. [passage omitted]

Brothers, if one talks about Islam in the world this word is, regrettably, being linked to underdevelopment, as if Islam were an associate of underdevelopment and a comrade of reaction. Islam has nothing whatever to do with this.

Colonialism targeted the Islamic nation, and because colonialism was Christian [salibi], it deliberately subjugated Islam, placing it in the position of backwardness until Islam became coupled with backwardness. This is the reason. Islam is the religion of freedom and progress and cannot be stamped with reaction and backwardness. But Christian colonialism targeted the Islamic homeland and forced Muslims into a position of backwardness until, from the historical point of view, Islam appeared as the religion of backwardness. But by founding of these Islamic establishments, proof will be provided that the issue does not concern the nature of Islam as being backward, but that backwardness was imposed on this nation, which has now begun to resist. [passage omitted]

Atomic bombs fail against economies. Japan was hit by atomic bombs. Japan does not possess the atomic bomb, but it owns the economic bomb as a retaliatory weapon against the atomic bomb. He who has atomic bombs now begs from the one who has an economic bomb, since the latter has become the stronger.

We should not seek to become the owners of iron which will be eroded by rust; we should not sit over the powder-kegs, the weapons of mass destruction and others. This is evil and stupid. There is no nation which rose up and progressed by such mad and wicked means. Such means inevitably rebound on those who use them. [passage omitted]

Anyone who adopts force to impose his presence and to defeat others will be defeated in the end. But civilization and culture are built by man—the man who is not evil, because an evil person is a brother of the devil. The duty of the devil is to subvert and corrupt. Within the human race, the evildoer is the one who corrupts and does not do good. We as Muslims disavow the evildoers and their corrupt behavior and disavow the wicked means of life.

Economics is the peaceful road to development, growth, and cooperation; the removal of obstacles to trade, capital, individuals, and even livestock; the facilitation of the exchange of goods and benefits; land reclamation; and the non-abandonment of land—this is the good deed for which our Islamic religion calls. Indeed, I consider the creation of the Islamic Bank a very important step in the advancement of the Islamic nation. The Islamic nation constitutes one quarter of the world, and if this one quarter advances, we will have made a historic contribution to the advancement of the world. [passage omitted]

During the Lahore Conference in 1974, I contributed in a modest way to drawing the attention of the Islamic Conference Organization toward this institution. The credit, however, should be attributed to my predecessors and to those who sincerely manage and administer this institution. I pledge before you that I will always make every possible modest effort with the leaders of the Islamic world to urge them to encourage this institution and similar ones. I will be on the lookout for anybody who attempts to hamper this work. This is a very important civilized step. [passage omitted]

We do not deny that politically we can contradict, oppose, and disagree with each other. That is the nature of life and that should not reflect itself on the work of this institution. [passage omitted]

I urge you, as I urge the Islamic Bank and also the African Development Bank, to provide the necessary assistance to the returning Islamic republics. This is a duty. Your brothers came from Kazakhstan, Albania, Bosnia-Hercegovina, and Azerbaijan, and tomorrow, I have been told, a delegation from one of the Islamic republics, Tatarstan, will arrive. Thanks be to God. These brothers must return with assurances and benefits, as good news to their brothers back home. These states are not poor. They perhaps do not have money, they do not have capital, but they are rich. They have water, rain, rivers, minerals, and people. Do not think that if you give funds to Albania or Kazakhstan you lose. On the contrary, you benefit. Perhaps now they need your funds, but they bring back benefits. They have capabilities. It is my duty to press the need to assist these Islamic republics.

I told him that I have important historic experiences that span about a quarter of a century for the sake of Islam, freedom, people's democracy, economic liberation, civilization, and modernism. We were confronted everywhere with the enemies of good, from near and far, and the battle continues.

I have never lost the belief in what I am telling you now. On the contrary, each battle consolidates my belief even further. One day during the Brezhnev era, when the U.S. challenges to my country were at their peak, a Soviet military delegation composed of commanders of Soviets arms was sitting with me and we were talking about military cooperation. I requested that they sell us some defensive weapons, because we were in a state of self-defense in accordance with UN Resolution 51. We did not cross the sea, or the ocean, nor did we invade space. But, we were being targeted inside our homes, and our children were being killed while they were asleep. It was our right to search for a defensive method.

The Navy commander at the time told me: Comrade Qadhdhafi, it would be advisable for Libya to join the Warsaw Pact so as to guarantee the deployment of nuclear missiles on its territory; it would be feared by the United States, which would be unable to attack Libya once it deployed nuclear missiles. Despite the difficult circumstances, I did not lose my belief; my faith, principles, and convictions that Libya would not accept entry into the Warsaw Pact at the time nor accept the deployment of nuclear weapons on its territory. We should be

as far away as possible from this evil called weapons of mass destruction. [passage omitted]

I have made a historical analysis which states that all formations are bound to wind up and melt away; they are temporary, not permanent; this is the era of the masses—who will march toward the Kremlin and everywhere—the ethnic minorities will be victorious, oppressed groups will win, and people will recover their religions. We should not lose our reason amid this current temporary operation and these temporary empires. The solution is not like the one they envisage and publicize.

I told him Libya is an independent state; it deals with you as friends, not as allies; and that Libya had not yet decided to ally itself with communism. But the relationship between us is a political one. This happened before the establishment of people's authority, when I used to exercise political power. This general became coy and retracted his words. It was later proved that had I been wrong and followed this advice and accepted this tempting offer, and Libya became entangled in the conflict between East and West and faced a problem, the day would have come when they would have said: We have finally given up, come on and dismantle the missiles that you have, and our situation would have become wretched in the eyes of the world. As Castro told me: I installed nuclear missiles in Cuba and thought that I would be able to sleep soundly in the shadow of nuclear missiles, only to find my country a toy between the two superpowers. The missiles were not to defend Cuba, but for the Soviet Union to strike America. Cuba was merely used as a base. Thus these missiles did not protect Cuba; on the contrary, they constituted a danger to it. I also saw this as constituting a danger to Libya, and not a protection. This was one incident.

Now, considering that we are Muslims, Islamic pressure groups—popular Islamic revolutionary extremist and fundamentalist groups from all over the Islamic world—contact me and ask me to declare the second Fatimid state. Probably this is the first time you have heard this. You know that in the 10th, 11th, and 12th centuries there was a Fatimid state stretching from Morocco to Egypt, with Al-Mahdiyah, Tunisia, and later Cairo as its capital. Jawhar al-Siqilli built Cairo and the Caliph al-Mu'iz Lidin Illah al-Fatimi moved to Egypt and made it the capital of the Fatimid state, and this state lasted for centuries. Now I was surprised to see Islamic groups from all over the Islamic world reminding me of the Fatimid state and telling me: The second Fatimid state must be declared. We seek a base, a state to be declared the second Fatimid state.

We are looking for a caliph, and are searching for someone who will declare a jihad so that we may have an Islamic state with a caliphate—we had such a state in the past in this very place. Because of my belief in Islam, I do not distinguish between one Muslim and another—with regard to the Shiites, we all love Ali and we are all supporters of Ali; all Muslims are supporters of Ali, therefore we are all Shiites. With regard to the sunnah of the Prophet, no Muslims contravene the sunnah of the Prophet, and they are therefore all Sunnis. These are two sides of one coin. We cannot divide the Islamic world into Fatimid and non-Fatimid. We have not yet been convinced of the possibility of another caliphate rising once again in this day and age. This is not the era of the individual; it is not the era of the caliph, the sultan, or the emperor; it is the era of the masses—the era of the nationalities—every nationality to become independent; but praise be to God we are a collection of nationalities—peoples and tribes—who have Islam in common, praise be to God. Islam does not desire that the Arab nationality should crush the Kurdish nationality, for example; or that the Arab nationality should crush the Persian nationality; or that the latter should crush Touranism—these are nationalities. It is a fact that we have peoples and tribes. [passage omitted]

The truth of my anticommunist conviction has been proved. My conviction now is that I should not split the Islamic world into Fatimid and non-Fatimid. I do not accept the totem or statue again. Nor do I accept theocracy. I believe in freedom—in people's direct democracy, religious and ethnic freedom—so as to prove that Islam is not an enemy to freedom and democracy. [Word indistinct] real division into camps or caliphates but if we target anyone... [sentence unfinished]. This is a question of colonization. Whether one is part of the Islamic community or not, as long as one is Muslim, one is targeted. Should a crusade be imposed, "Go forth, light and heavy!" [Koran quotation] God did not say Shiite, Sunni, Maliki, Hanbali [words indistinct]. He said: "Go forth, light and heavy! Struggle in God's way with your possessions and selves." That is a call to all Muslims to rush forth to defend Jerusalem, to defend Palestine, and to defend themselves against colonization.

But the times no longer allow lifting swords, sailing ships and boats, crossing the Mediterranean and subjugating Europe to Islam. As a matter of fact, that is as far away from reality you can get, as far as I am concerned. If Europe commits aggression against us in a new crusade—and I hope that will not happen—we will confront it as a colonizer. But Europe is now asking us to cooperate with it; that is good. It is saying, here is a bank that will open a branch for you. The African Development Bank was limited to African countries only. The United States is a member of that bank, which is headed by brother Babacar. That is an example of cooperation, praise be to God. We wish the United States could be our partner in banks and projects, in development and trade, and put an end to the language of fleets, blockade, boycott, sanctions, and threats. To us, that is a dirty language. We wish it to be burned.

We do not hate the United States because it is the United States. We only hate colonization, wherever it is. We welcome... [sentence unfinished]. I am happy that the United States is a member of that bank. That is a great thing. Libya and the United States are members of the African Development Bank; by God, that is superb, a picture of cooperation among nations. We should like to

preserve that and develop it, but the United States does not. I declare before you: We want cooperation, trade, capital, and tourism; we want humanity to come together to eradicate AIDS, cancer, children's sclerosis, and malaria; we want to protect the environment, the ozone layer, and the forests which provide us with oxygen; and we want to withdraw aircraft carriers, missiles, and submarines, and to destroy all weapons.

Is it logical that small peoples like ourselves would seek war, confrontation, and destruction? No, it is not logical at all; small peoples seek peace. Whenever a nation is small, however, the powerful seek to subjugate it. Is there a new world order which is based upon the suppression and the frightening of peoples? Well if there is one, it will collapse, because it relies upon repression. The only order which would survive forever is the one which is based upon democracy, freedom, and mutual consent. With the consent of everyone. Free peoples are the ones who will create the new international order. Repression, tyranny, threats, blockade, boycott, oppression, and arrogance will not be the pillars of a world order; they will create complexes, vengeance, reaction, resistance, violence, and terrorism—that will be its outcome. [passage omitted]

We used to cooperate with America to conquer the Sahara in Libya; that was after the revolution. We and Nixon, or someone else—I do not recall—maybe with Ford and Carter. Then American companies were operating in Libya prospecting for oil. We needed companies to search for oil; we used to pay them in return for their services. They carried out projects for us in the Sahara. They dug for water and cultivated the desert. We thanked them and paid for their services. We did not prevent them from working; we did not slaughter them.

Were we sane and then went mad? Each one believes that he will be a god on earth and impose himself on peoples and the world. That can last for some time but will end eventually. [passage omitted]

Even the United States, if it wants to rid itself of cruise missiles by launching them against Libya, Castro, Iraq, or anyone else, and use new aircraft which do not appear on radar, that is all madness and nonsense. So what, what would happen? Would that build a new world order? Not at all. On the contrary, that would ruin the United States and exhaust it. [passage omitted]

We small nations, as I have said, have no interest in instability, war, weapons, confrontations, or blockades—we are quickly harmed by any blockade. Libya cannot presently deal in dollars. This is for your information. America prevents Libya from doing that. You know that the currency used abroad is the dollar. America banned Libya from using the dollar. Libya has lost a great deal and was harmed a great deal as a result. Libya was unable even to pay what it owed to foreign comapnies. Spare parts cannot be imported for the airliners which carry you, your sons, and your families from Libya to anywhere in the world. This is because they are American-made or partially manufactured by America. If an airliner crashes to the ground with all its passengers, it will be a tragedy no less than that of the Pan Am airliner or the UTA airliner.

We will have no mercy on those who committed that crime. Does any of you know who committed that ugly crime against the Pan Am flight or the UTA flight? Please let us know who they are so that we can send them for trial and punish them most severely, to insure that such crimes will not be repeated. But we do not know who committed these crimes. If they are Libyans, then please give us the evidence from America and Britain, or even from Mars or Saturn, so that we can imprison those who committed the crime, execute them, or make them pay compensation. We have two Libyans; provide us with the evidence, or release them. [passage omitted]

We seek peace and the destruction of weapons. Why is the tent which you are in now so beautiful? Because we built it anew. It was destroyed by [U.S.] bombs. It used to be a humble tent. [passage omitted]

In fact, I regard this assembly as support for the Libyan people, peace, and cooperation. [passage omitted]

In fact, I have every confidence in the Islamic nation—not only because they are Muslims but because, praise be to God, God created us with a common bond linking various nations which have capabilities and positions in all continents of the world. They have vast capabilities. Guided by our religion, we should unite our efforts and stand behind these existing establishments and create new establishments. [passage omitted]

Kazakhstan Finance Minister Participates

LD1202181892 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, 12 Feb (JANA)—Brother Abdikadirov Tuleubek, the finance minister in the Republic of Kazakhstan and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli this afternoon to take part in the 16th annual meeting of the Council of Governors of the Islamic Development Bank which will be held in the Great Jamahiriyah. Brother Abdikadirov said, in a statement to JANA, that Kazakhstan, which has become an independent state, is endeavoring to bolster its relations with all Islamic states, particularly with the Great Jamahiriyah.

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi Announces Decision To Attend Talks

U.S. 'Promises' Cited

TA1902172692 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Report by Galya Marom]

[Text] Holding an improvised news conference on Faysal al- Husayni's doorstep in East Jerusalem, Hanan 'Ashrawi announced that the Palestinian delegation had finally decided to attend the peace talks after issuing an announcement to the contrary yesterday. The reason for the shift in the stand are promises made to them, mainly from U.S. elements

We were given assurances by the U.S. Department of State that it will do all that it can to protect the security and freedom of movement of the delegates, she said.

The Palestinian delegates will cross the Jordan River bridges tomorrow and head for Amman, and from there go to Washington.

Delegation Departs for Amman

TA20021113692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] The members of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral talks in Washington left for Amman this morning. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that they were accompanied by some 50 advisers and administrative personnel.

Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the delegation, said that the delegation would arrive in Washington at the beginning of next week and would take part in the talks scheduled to begin on Monday.

Al-Husayni Leaves for Washington

JN1902175792 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory council affiliated with the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, left Amman for Washington today. In a statement to the press, al-Husayni said that he will meet with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to discuss the latest developments in the peace process in light of the Israeli occupation authorities' arrest of two members of the Palestinian delegation. He will ask the United States to intervene seriously to stop Israeli provocations and the ongoing repressive measures in the occupied Arab territories. Al-Husayni added that he will brief the members of the Palestinian delegation due to arrive in Amman tomorrow on the results of his talks and contacts with U.S. officials prior to the delegation's departure for Washington on Saturday.

During his visit to Amman, al-Husayni held contacts with several Jordanian officials on the Israeli occupation authorities' arrest of two members of the Palestinian delegation. He also held contacts with the U.S. ambassador in Amman and informed him of the Palestinian delegation's concern about the future of the peace process due to the Israeli practices. He asked the U.S. Administration to intervene to stop these practices so as to maintain the peace process, in which the Palestinians are eager to participate effectively and positively to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy and to guarantee Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Al-Husayni on Israeli Raids, Baker Letter

JN1902175292 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1320 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory council of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington peace talks, by correspondent 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Majali in Amman on 19 February, from the "Correspondent's Reports" feature—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Al-Majali] Will the Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon affect the peace process?

[Al-Husayni] No doubt, for such attacks express Israel's aggressive desire. They absolutely do not express its desire for peace. This gives adverse indications about the future of these talks with Israel.

[Al-Majali] There were reports that you received a letter from the U.S. secretary of state in which the United States pledged to reach a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. How true are these reports?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, they are true. We have received a letter in this regard. We were going to Washington under this (?belief)—namely, that there is a sincere U.S. approach to realize such objectives. However, such a belief now encompasses a sort of ambiguity or doubt. If the United States is unable to stop Israel from detaining a Palestinian citizen who is a member of the Palestinian delegation, can it really reach a just and comprehensive solution in the entire region which would force Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories?

'Arafat Cancels Syria, Jordan Visits

JN2002095492 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 20 Feb 92 p 1

["Exclusive" report]

[Excerpts] Amman—While Arab delegations are preparing to leave for Washington, Israel has escalated tension on the Lebanon front. Scores of armored personnel carriers and tanks were seen moving in the direction of southern Lebanon, and Israeli warplanes continued their reconnaissance flights. Israel has also threatened Yasir 'Arafat to settle scores with him personally.

AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned that state of Palestine president Yasir 'Arafat has canceled a scheduled visit to Syria in view of the deteriorating conditions in the region. Palestinian factions in Lebanon have also declared a state of alert. The sources emphasized that Israel plans to invade southern Lebanon and has obtained U.S. approval to carry out operations, unlimited in location or duration, and through various means to liquidate the Palestinian organizations' bases under the pretext of liquidating what the United States and Israel term terrorism. [passage omitted]

AKHBAR AL-USBU' also learned that the Syrian leadership has increased the state of alert in Syria and is carefully monitoring the Israeli moves and aggressive escalation. Syrian political and diplomatic sources said they were concerned about the Israeli military escalation on the Lebanon front. These sources say that Israel is confirming its aggressiveness and conspiracy against peace and international legitimacy.

AKHBAR AL-USBU' further learned that President 'Arafat has canceled his scheduled visit to Jordan due to the fact that the PLO Executive Committee is preoccupied with monitoring developments concerning the bilateral talks due to begin in Washington on 24 February, as well as developments in the occupied territories, where savage storming campaigns are being carried out, and in southern Lebanon, which is witnessing a mass exodus. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Boudiaf Discusses Return, Government Goals

NC1902073692 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 15 Feb 92 pp 3, 15

[Report on interview with Higher State Council Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf by correspondent 'Adil Rida in Algiers; date not given]

[Text] The return of the veteran struggler Mohamed Boudiaf to Algeria after 30 years of exile in Morocco to assume the chairmanship of the "Higher State Council" with four other Algerian figures in order to administer the country's affairs and fill the constitutional vacuum (resulting from parliament's dissolution) and the presidential vacuum (caused by President Chadli Bendjedid's resignation) was a total surprise, even to those who were close to the military establishment, which took it upon itself to confront Algeria's difficult circumstances. His opponents said that he had returned to give the regime a so-called historical legitimacy to compensate for its lack of constitutional legitimacy. Others strongly rejected this (superficiality) in assessing the man's character and referred to his renowned history of struggle, which proves that he was behind the Algerian revolution's decisive and historic achievements against the French. A man of such quality can never be a mere facade. Which of these two views is more accurate in describing the man's character?

The situation as I saw it in Algeria over the course of a week indicates that the man is very intelligent, very patriotic, and enjoys the trust of all political parties because of his heroic performance in the independence war. Some say he is the man capable of leading Algeria in the current stage.

How does new Chairman Boudiaf view his country's current situation? How and why did he return after this long absence to chair the Higher State Council?

This question was the beginning of this dialogue with him.

He replied: I returned to the homeland a few weeks ago and I have devoted these weeks to analyzing the situation in the country. I can now say that my assessment of developments was not far off the mark. During my exile I always sought to maintain close contact with the country and the events taking place in it. During all those years I tried to make a modest contribution in guiding the Algerians and drawing their attention to the dangers threatening the country. I did this by adopting certain stands and issuing repeated statements despite the ban that successive governments tried to impose on my stands. Everyone knows that these attempts reached the point of trying to conceal the role that several other struggler comrades and I played during the national liberation war.

[Rida] How did you find the situation in Algeria after your return?

Chairman Boudiaf said: As is known, Algeria is suffering from negative economic growth, shrinking investments, and dwindling revenues. On the political level we had a tragic estrangement between a leadership preoccupied with its own political game and masses who had lost confidence and suffered a feeling of loss and despair as a result. On the social level, there was a constant deterioration in the citizens' conditions, particularly the weak and youths who had fallen victim to unemployment and immoral influences. The national identity was almost lost, and this paved the way for various influences; Algeria became an arena for those who wished to wreak havoc on our people's moral values. The situation deteriorated rapidly in 1991 to the point that we feared civil war and that the country would become open to foreign intervention.

When society's vibrant forces, including the National People's Army, acted in a praiseworthy, patriotic manner, the purpose was to halt the plunge toward the abyss. I heeded the call of national duty, agreed to shoulder my national responsibilities, and placed myself at Algeria's service. In doing this I had no ambition other than to rally all Algerians to save the homeland. Certainly I do not forget for one minute that the task is demanding and hard. But I am now confident—as I always have been—that the Algerian people will find in themselves the strength and the means to emerge victorious from this new ordeal.

[Rida] Some are speaking of the possibility of suspending the 1989 Constitution and drawing up a new constitution. What are the facts?

Chairman Boudiaf said: No decision has been reached on this matter yet. It might be discussed in the future. The Constitution is still in force, particularly as everything that has occurred has been done in the framework of the institutions. It is necessary to emphasize one essential point: maintaining a state based on law and preserving the democratic process and individual liberties. Hence, the Constitution is not a burden, and there is no prospect for change now. It is a matter which is left to time.

The Higher State Council has decided to establish a constitutional council (this is expected soon) because it believes in the need for consulting the people. The members of this body must be honest and competent. The consultative council must be a mirror of Algerian society in order to help us to discuss its problems. I think that this institution will be very beneficial because it will be able to discuss some issues that the Higher State Council will submit for examination.

It is our concern to view Algerian society through its representatives, who will be chosen as members of the consultative council. They will be the new blood and will have the ability to discuss the country's future.

[Rida] There are questions concerning the future of political life and democracy. What about the parties' future? Is there a tendency to legalize some parties? And what precisely is the attitude toward the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]?

Chairman Boudiaf said: There are no restrictions on parties' activities. They exist and operate freely. In this respect, I must say that I was not convinced by the course that democracy had taken in Algeria. It began after the events of 1988 and imposed itself on Algeria. For years the Algerian people did not participate in its discussion. I was very apprehensive about this, especially as the number of parties increased. But this course had a positive aspect, namely the freedom of expression which I myself experienced. During my stay in Morocco Algerians came to see me only after this freedom enabled me to see and meet many of them. This indicates that a dialogue exists with a plethora of outlets, such as the multitude of parties, freedom of expression, and the exchange of views.

Chairman Boudiaf emphasized: Our attitude toward the parties is clear. We hope that they will respect the rules of the democratic game. There will be a rapprochement among these parties when the country's major problems are diagnosed, and this might lead to blocs. Even if legislative elections produce no benefit, pluralism does not pose a danger to the homeland. We hope that a consensus will be reached on the great national issues. The parties particularly must not resort to physical or verbal violence and must not use religion, national values, places of worship, and public buildings. They must depend on their strugglers' commitment, not on state assistance. By respecting these conditions, every citizen can contribute to the homeland's salvation. By depending on their strugglers in every sphere, including the financial one, the parties' strength will be gauged according to their strugglers' sacrifice. This applies to all Algerians, who must know that people cannot attain progress without sacrifice.

Chairman Boudiaf said: The FIS, by resorting to the use of mosques, might find the other parties also demanding their right to use places of worship. The mosque will thus become a place of dispute and a source of sedition. Sa'd Zaghlul, the leader of the Egyptian national movement, once said that "the homeland is for all, and the mosques are for God." Religion is no one's monopoly. I greatly regret that some people call for jihad in God's name as if we lived in an atheist state. We are Muslims, and Islam is no stranger to Algeria. I have said before that Algeria's problems are not religious. Religion is a factor of rapprochement, brotherhood, and cohesion. Turning it into empty slogans is senseless.

Chairman Boudiaf said: I wonder about this fund-raising every Friday. The world looks at us and our tragedy. Foreign media were the first to report the recent events in Algiers' Badjarrah quarter because they had prior knowledge of them. I do not know if it is true, but I have heard that the FIS told France that its stand was correct because its president had adopted one on a domestic Algerian issue. This is unforgivable, particularly as it sought the help of a foreign state with which we shared a history. I would like to draw our youth and their guardians' attention to this and to tell them that the government's struggle is not against the FIS, as some would like to suggest. The government's sole task is to see that the law is respected so that democracy can survive and grow.

In a recent statement the French defense minister said that it took three centuries to build democracy in his country. Democracy is a question of building, be it in Algeria or the Arab world. It cannot be corrected or consolidated except where there is calm, serene thinking, and respect for other views. We have a class which believes that it is right and that all others are wrong. This is unacceptable. The authorities are determined to put matters in their correct perspective in the interest of democracy. I am sure that had matters not taken the course they did and had the Army and the sincere not acted in time, the country would have slipped toward an abyss.

[Rida] But what about security and the possibility of events turning into a civil war?

Chairman Boudiaf said: In 1962 Algeria experienced graver events, yet such a war did not take place. All the factors were there for a conflict among the provinces. There were acute political struggles and plenty of weapons but no civil war because the Algerian people have a survival instinct. They are not ready to pursue a course which conflicts with this instinct; of that I am sure. We saw how reasonable people acted to disperse pseudo-Islamists who were provoking security men. This proves that there is a national conscience which does not accept any slippery path or deviation.

There will be no civil war because the Algerian people know its consequences. They know what has happened in Ethiopia and Somalia, and they know that regardless of the reasons for it a civil war will destroy this homeland. Civil war means that we ourselves have decided to destroy ourselves. Whatever their differences, the Algerians do not accept this.

This is the belief of the government, which is trying hard to put matters in their correct perspective, to restore dialogue, and avoid violence, which is not in line with our character and which solves nothing.

[Rida] It seems that the National Liberation Front [FLN], which has governed for 30 years, is suffering crises, which were reflected in the election results. What is the truth, and is there any intention to disband the FLN?

Chairman Boudiaf said: I am proud to be one of the FLN's founders. I have brothers in the Front whom I respect. Talking about the FLN inevitably leads to talk about its history. When we ended the party era and entered that of national unity, the Front was looking for a suitable name. We agreed to form the FLN, in which

everyone, except those parties with ties abroad, could participate. The Front gathered the Algerian people and liberated the country. Then its name became unsuitable because the mission for which it was formed had been accomplished.

But the FLN remained because of its good reputation and because it continued to represent society after the national liberation war. However, a group within the national movement seized the FLN in 1962. This was the first deviation. In 1967 I said that the FLN was dead. Then it became the only party. Everyone knows the fate of an unopposed party. Now, after 30 years, the FLN is facing domestic problems. Strugglers asked me about this, telling me that there are sincere brothers in the FLN. I told them: This concerns you and the Front's strugglers. You all have absolute freedom. I denied that there is any plan to disband the troubled FLN. Just like any other party, it is in the FLN's interests to surmount these problems. If political maneuvering continues, it will become extinct.

The press has reiterated something which contains some truth, that the people voted for the FIS to take revenge on the FLN. In 30 years in power the FLN was overburdened by huge tasks. Perhaps it is responsible for our current situation. That may be so, but if there are sincere people in the FLN let them rescue it through a sound political plan and clear vision. If they do, they will succeed.

[Rida] There is a question about the relationship between the Higher State Council and the Army, and the Army's role in Algeria's current circumstances.

Chairman Boudiaf said: My position in 1962 was clear. I was against a group within the Army. Conditions then were different from those today. The Army was the Algerian people's instrument to face the difficult conditions following the failure of some establishments which could not adopt a stand. Our Army has acquired immunity to all foreign trends. It comprises vigilant youths who have helped get things back to normal. I told the Army command: take power. The answer was: We do not want to. This is the basic difference between recent events in Algeria and those of 1965. The situation now is different because the Army refuses to take power, it accepts the democratic course, and it works within the law.

My relations with the Army are clear, through its representatives in the Higher State Council. The Army is carrying out its duty without seeking power because it knows that its role is bigger than this. I became sure of that during my consultations with Army commanders and through the Army's honorable stand which saved the country from the abyss.

[Rida] What about the chronic economic crisis, unemployment, higher prices, etc?

Chairman Boudiaf said: Algeria is experiencing an economic crisis which is affecting everyone. We must correct the state's financial situation by reducing extravagance and by mobilizing our capabilities to improve the economy. I have been briefed on the grim conditions that citizens are experiencing, particularly in housing, widespread unemployment, and high prices. The state must begin to solve these problems. Work on some housing projects has stopped and other institutions are closing down because of the lack of materials. Measures must be taken to end this anomalous situation. We must also protect citizens' buying power by directing the state's efforts toward helping the needy.

We are trying, with Prime Minister brother Sid Ahmed Ghozali, to draw up a real salvation plan that will include measures for practical action. We must mobilize the agencies concerned to implement this plan. Everyone must help. We cannot envisage everyone participating in the plan unless it falls within a democratic framework. What I say now is in line with my lifelong and incessant struggle for the sake of democracy. The Higher State Council will follow every step that the government takes. We must view the facts as they are in order to solve them with the methods we know. We must end the economic chaos and stop dwelling on past glories. Algeria's crisis is difficult, and it raises the question of whether the people are really being mobilized to confront and end this dangerous situation. It cannot be surmounted by barren slogans and imams' rhetoric. We all have faith and enthusiasm for our religion, but we must work. Algeria needs someone to exhort its youth to work, someone who will extricate the country from crisis.

Asked about Iranian-Algerian relations after Algeria decided to recall its ambassador to Iran, Chairman Boudiaf said:

The day that the Algerian crisis began the Iranian deputies started making statements which took on a certain color. We told Iranian leaders about this but to no avail, despite Algeria's having helped Iran a lot. Algeria was one of the few Arab countries to shoulder their responsibilities during the Iraq-Iran war. It helped resolve the crisis of the U.S. hostages in Iran and undertook to handle Iranian interests in the United States. Despite all this, Iran blatantly interfered in Algeria's internal affairs. This is unacceptable, be it from Iran or any other country. We asked our ambassador to leave Iran, which we hope will understand that we do not interfere in its internal affairs, in line with the nonintervention principle on which Algerian foreign policy is based. We ask others not to interfere in our affairs. Every interference will be confronted firmly because this is a matter of honor. We are defending Algeria and Algerian institutions against harm.

Chairman Boudiaf concluded: Algeria's destiny is in the hands of Algerians. We will bear the consequences of any good or bad we do. If we realize the need to take the right approach we will surmount the current crisis. The Algerian citizen must ask himself what is his stand. The

political parties should follow national unity, as in the days of the liberation war. National unity is a source of strength. I am confident that Algeria has sincere people and appropriate, vibrant institutions and unions. Eventually they will overcome the crisis and find their way toward a prosperous future.

Boudiaf Receives Constitutional Council Members

LD1702164292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1500 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Higher State Council Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf today received members of the Constitutional Council led by Council Chairman Abdelmalek Benhabyles. The meeting is one of a series scheduled with representatives of institutions throughout the country.

Mr. Boudiaf told the Constitutional Council about the measures taken by the Higher State Council to reestablish state authority and the primacy of the law. Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf reiterated the conditions that are mandatory in order for the democratic process to continue and the important role that the Constitutional Council should play in this context.

Ghozali—State of Emergency 'Provisional Measure'

LD1902144892 Algiers APS in English 1346 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] London, 19/02/92 (APS)—The state of emergency is a provisional measure and a solution to Algeria's problems consists in reestablishing the state authority law's primacy finding out a solution to the economic crisis and correcting the shortcomings of the political practise, noted head of government Sid Ahmed Ghozali in an article published by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT daily in accord with "NEW PERSPECTIVES QUARTERLY" periodical. Ghozali accused the Islamic Front of Salvation (FIS) that it sought to use the legislative elections to break up the democratic institutions, stressing the Algerian Government will be firm in all what sets up the primacy of law and will strongly oppose all those who will attempt to break it. He also stated the elections will take place within two years and FIS has the right to prepare itself to them provided that it respects law. Ghozali added "The crisis shaking Algeria has no link with Islam for since 14 centuries our society embraced this religion. Islam excludes any harm to the consciousness of the people. [no closing quotation marks as received]

According to Ghozali, this situation obliged President Chadli to resign on Jan 12 creating hence a vacuum that reacquired the cancellation of the second round of the elections. To fill this constitutional vaccum, the Higher State Committee (HCE) [as received] was created as a provisional institution in charge of reestablishing order, and democracy carries on its path. And we are committed to organize new national elections within the two next years, he said. The state of emergency means that the government will not hesitate to use all its prerogatives in order to apply law. However, he stressed, obviously, the state of emergency and firmness in the exercise of the power are not the ideal solution to the main problems of Algeria. The solution would be in putting an end to unemployment and poverty, to build new houses and set up an economic system able of alleviating the social tension. Despite our efforts for the achievement of economic reforms, he added, we cannot succeed alone for Algeria is not a closed state but it has to cooperate work with the international community. The overwhelming majority of Algerians seek to put in place a steady democratic system in all the Islamic world.

Foreign Minister on Prospects for Democracy

PM1902141092 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 16 Feb 92 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi by Muhammad al-Rumayhi; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Rumayhi] Has Algeria dissolved the parties operating in it?

[Brahimi] We have not dissolved the parties. Boudiaf has made it clear since the new Algerian authority assumed power that the new authority extends its hand to everyone in Algeria without exception, to anyone who wants to cooperate with it, so that Algeria can transcend this dangerous phase. Some arrests were made in the early days, but no one was arrested for no reason. Those who were arrested were arrested because of actions that violated the law— acts they committed as individuals, not as parties. All those arrested were referred to the courts. [passage omitted]

We are eager to safeguard public and private freedoms and not to harm them. This is because we want to restore a normal situation in Algeria as soon as possible so that we can devote our time to the accumulated economic and social problems, for we realize that we have neglected many things recently. Algeria is a rich country by virtue of its capabilities and its people, and we need serious work to return Algeria to the right path.

[Al-Rumayhi] There have been media reports recently that there are extremist groups seeking to resist the regime by force, among them a group called the "Afghans"...

[Brahimi] Within the [Islamic] Salvation Front there are numerous groups which have various interpretations [ijtihadat]. There are some who wear Afghan dresss; they were in Afghanistan and Pakistan during the Afghan war and fought alongside the Afghan mojahedin. They are confused between a country occupied by a foreign power and a country in which interpretations are expressed. They are extremists, and some groups among them have recently carried out terrorist operations against institutions and people.

We now have a pressing need to restore the state's authority, because the state has been absent, through a lack of decisionmaking. I put it like this: The state has resigned. We need to restore that state. This does not mean our returning the state to the streets as an authority. We need to restore the law. [passage omitted]

[Al-Rumayhi] There was talk about democracy in Algeria and the establishment of pluralism there instead of the one-party system. After the first round of elections a few weeks ago, when it was discovered that the Salvation Front had won a majority, the experiment was halted.

[Brahimi] Democracy is not selective, nor is it a ladder to reach a certain place, only then to kick that ladder over and to throw it away forever. Before we engage in the democratic experiment we must ask ourselves what kind of society we need. If we do not agree on a single specific framework in which both the majority and the minority have clear rights, society would lose its aims. We must agree on that framework. So if I am not prepared to live under your government and you are not prepared to live under my government, then society would split and some would impose their opinions on the rest—and that is a good recipe for civil war. Some of them claimed openly in their assemblies that democracy meant "infidelity" and that they would not relinquish power when they attain it—which is undemocratic. Mistakes accumulated in Algeria, and when logical solutions proved difficult democratic plans were announced without correct and healthy preparations; there was too much haste. We almost reached the brink of civil war, which would not only have destroyed Algeria but would have reached other places too. On that basis President Bendjedid resigned, for he realized the dead end that the country had reached, and he decided to provide an opportunity for a reappraisal. There is a place for the Islamic plan in the new Algeria, provided that it is formulated in a way acceptable to the people who do not subscribe to it. This requires some patience on the part of the Algerian authorities and from the rest, too. This is because as far as we are concerned we are all Algerians. Those who are brandishing slogans want to rule in the name of Islam. We are not alien to Islam, nor are we alien to them if they approach matters with political moderation and a sound dialogue. We should all live together and accept one another's opinions. This is why we must find the formula for Algeria to overcome this crisis and tension. [passage omitted]

[Al-Rumayhi] Does the Algerian fundamentalist movement have any ramifications outside Algeria?

[Brahimi] There are contacts between them and various parties. There is talk about this subject, but I have no accurate information to reveal at this stage, for I do not want to accuse any particular person, state, or group. It is likely that there are contacts and coordination between groups inside and outside Algeria, but now is not the right time to reveal them.

FLN Ready for Role in State-Arranged Dialogue

LD2002095792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] At around 2030 yesterday the National Liberation Front [FLN] Central Committee concluded the proceedings of its extraordinary session at the Palais des Nations, Club des Pins. The last day of this session was devoted to discussing a draft motion and its unanimous approval in its final version. The text of the motion, which was published by the daily AL-SHA'B today, says among other things that the state of emergency is linked to the circumstances that dictate [such a decision] and that if it were to continue unnecessarily it could leave a mark on the entire political life, which would not serve the democratic process.

The same motion welcomes Mr. Boudiaf [who returned from exile to chair the Higher State Council] and hopes that his return will contribute to overcoming the difficulties and dangers which the country is going through. Such a contribution could come from the utilization of his great knowledge as a militant to open the door to a wide national dialogue that would bring the right solutions to maturity and spare the country the risks of being embroiled in the cycle of violence and sterile conflicts.

The FLN Central Committee also expresses its full readiness to participate in the dialogue which is being arranged by the Higher State Council and to help resolve the serious problems existing in the national arena, mainly the restoration of security, the return of tranquillity, the return to constitutional life, and the adherence to the democratic process, which also includes the people's choice of their representatives at all levels. The Central Committee believes that these issues represent the ideal groundwork for the preservation of national unity, the country's independence, and its security and for the development of society and its prosperity in its authentic civilizational framework.

The FLN Central Committee also reaffirms its rejection of all direct or indirect foreign interference in Algeria's affairs.

Official Notes Conditions of FIS Detainees

LD1902140992 Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Algiers, Feb 19 (APS)—About 5 thousand persons "militants at the Islamic Front of Salvation" (FIS) were arrested since the begining of February, noted Ali Haroun minister of human rights and member of the Higher State Committee (HCE) [as received] in an interview to APS and LE MATIN independent daily. Haroun stressed these persons are in two "security centres" in Reggane and Ouargla south of Algeria. Two other centres (Adrar and in Salah) are not yet functional, noted the minister who did not exclude that a certain number of persons arrested will be released in the next

days. "In the forthcoming days, we will exactly know the precise number of persons who will remain in these centres, he said. Moreover, the four security centres were scheduled by authorities to place people arrested according to the gravity of facts they are accused of. Besides the number of persons arrested, the minister added, some persons committed "serious offences" such as assassination attempts and will be transfered before civil or military justice according to each case. Some others will be subject to "a mere administrative placement" under the decree proclaiming the state of emergency. Among these persons, there are delinquents who are already looked for for common law offences.

Furthermore, the minister of human rights observed no minor nor woman were arrested. "If minors could have been arrested, it has been ordered to immediately deliver them to their families". Asked about potential police brutalities, Haroun asserted he consulted the minister of internal affairs on this matter, and the latter assured him it was question of groundless rumors. However, the minister stressed if a precise fact is notified to the Higher State Committee, then it will order to initiate necessary enquiries and if it is proved that cruelties or tortures were committed against persons arrested, all approriate measures will then be taken. In this regard, he pointed out the reestablishment of public order "is inseparable of the respect of human rights and the physical and moral integrity of persons. Haroun also categorically belied rumors according to which executions could have been committed "it is absolutely wrong, there is no execution" he asserted.

The maximum date of the arrest is about 12 months in view of the texts governing the state of emergency that was decreed for the same period but the minister considered, the big majority of persons will be released within 3 to 6 month period, "if order is reestablished and if causes of this situation are more or less controlled". Answering a question on the possibility for humanitarian organisms [as received] to visit security centres, Ali Haroun noted "any organism that would voice the hope, could be received. We will be able to receive them within ten days" he said, adding the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) already formulated such a request. Eventually, the minister of human rights did not exclude that the press could visit these centres.

*FIS Leaders Take 'Harder Line' Against State

92AF0382B Paris LE MONDE in French 7 Feb 92 p 1

[Editorial: "A Daily Routine of Violence"]

[Text] With every passing day Algeria slips deeper into a daily routine of limited but nonetheless ominous violence. By the official count 11 people have died and some 60 were wounded in clashes between fundamentalist activists and security forces in Batna on Tuesday, 4 February; Wednesday, 5 February; and apparently continuing on Thursday, 6 February. The government, which has opted to stifle the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] rather than ban it outright, is far from seeing the end of its troubles.

By arresting top fundamentalist leaders, convicting rebellious imams, retaking control of the mosques, and banning political sermons, the new government is attempting to reduce the "bearded fundamentalists" to silence. Its success at this seems to be diminishing, given the extent to which exasperation is growing among the activists, especially the young people who do not want to listen to reason and who harass those who try to rein them in.

Well aware of the increasingly uncontrollable impatience of their followers, the FIS leaders who have escaped imprisonment thus far are issuing more statements and are taking a harder line. They called for a "peaceful national march" on 14 February in Algiers, but the local authorities immediately banned what was billed as a "great confrontation" between the forces of good and evil aimed at "ending political piracy."

In another statement, the Islamist "Party of God" expressed its "pride" in embracing "religion as the alternative to Marxism and economic liberalism," urged the people "not to capitulate to despair and discouragement," and asked Algeria's foreign partners "to refrain from signing contracts and agreements." Regardless of what the government says or does, the Islamists still command the field even though they prudently decided against a strategy of going head-to-head with those who abruptly took the country's fate into their own hands.

True, the Army's intervention in the guise of a "legal coup d'etat" comforted a good portion of the population who had difficulty accepting the fundamentalists' rise to power. But today, the omnipresence—if not the omnipotence—of the military is beginning to irritate and even worry the same people who were pleased to see them return to prominence in politics. The new governing team does indeed seem to lack cohesion, plans, and most all, the means to carry them out. The Islamists are taking advantage of this lack of direction to gain ground.

Some had thought that by halting the electoral process the Army and those following in its wake had opted in favor of civil peace. The events of recent days indicate that this may be only an illusion.

Foreign Students Arrested in Oran Disturbances

LD1902163192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] APS, citing authorized sources, reported today that the security services recently arrested 11 foreigners in Oran city on charges of participating in the disturbances recently witnessed in that city.

The same sources said that those foreigners were Sudanese, Lebanese, British, Palestinian, and Moroccan nationals registered as students at the University of Oran.

Workers Party Official Sentenced for Incitement

LD1702044592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] An APS dispatch reports that the secretary general of the Workers Party yesterday confirmed that the permanent representative of the Workers Party in Oran was sentenced last Wednesday by the Oran court to a year in prison for encouraging gatherings.

Setif Court Sentences Disturbance Participants

LD1802102992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] The Setif court today examined the case of 23 people accused of taking part in rallies, instigation, and the destruction of public property during the recent incidents in Setif. We review the outcome of the trial with a report by our colleague Faisal in Setif:

[Faisal] The trial took a long time, but it was held in total calm and amid tight security measures. After hearing the defendants, their defense counsel, and the public prosecutor, the court passed sentences of three years imprisonment and a fine of 5,000 dinars against one defendant, and one years imprisonment and a fine of 5,000 dinars against 10 defendants—among them two deputies of the head of Setif municipality and two officials of the Islamic Salvation Front wilaya executive bureau.

The court also passed a sentence of six months imprisonment and a fine of 2,000 dinars against six defendants, and a six-month suspended sentence against three defendants with a fine of 1,000 dinars. The court aquitted two defendants.

The court also examined the cases of 22 defendants who were released on bail last week after investigations. A sentence of six months inprisonment with a fine of 2,000 dinars was passed on them.

The representative of the public prosecution had demanded a prison sentence of between two and three years according to the articles of the criminal code.

On the other hand, 10 people, including two youths, were referred today to the investigative magistrate. They are accused of illegal gatherings and the destruction of public property during the incidents that took place at Yahyaoui District in Setif last Friday.

It should be recalled that the court in (Alma) yesterday postponed the trial of 14 defendants in the incidents of Friday [7 February] to 29 February to enable the defendants to prepare their defense.

Calm Returns to Constantine University

LD1902142592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Calm returned to Constantine Central University following the recent disturbances there. Various quarters point out that a solution to the problems has been reached. Here are more details in the report of radio correspondent Suoad Boussena:

[Boussena] Indeed, calm has returned this morning to Constantine Central University after the wave of disturbances experienced by this university throughout last week. Things are returning to normal and the students are resuming attending classes after the meeting held by the university council with the participation of the various quarters including the striking students on Tuesday, 18 February 1992, or yesterday. Following lengthy discussions and after studying the facts emerging about the situation at the university, the council listened to the final response of the students, which was positive, for they agreed to immediately resume the university's teaching and scientific activities.

Owing to the unrest which had obstructed training, and out of concern to provide the best conditions for the examinations, the university council has decided to reschedule them and continue its contacts at all levels with the aim of solving the problems.

Police Confiscate Issues of EL-FORKANE

LD1902152692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] The Algerian press agency, citing sources close to the gendarmerie command, has reported that the latest issue of the daily EL-FORKANE [pro-Islamic Salvation Front paper] has been confiscated by the gendarmes for the second time in a row because it contained subjects that affect the country's security and are considered violations of the information law.

The aforementioned sources said that the confiscation process was not accompanied by the arrest of the journalist concerned and that the people responsible for the paper might be called. We remind you that the chief editor of this daily has been remanded in custody for the past two weeks.

Government, Banks Reschedule Foreign Debt

LD1502145492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0800 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Algeria and the consortium of Western banks headed by Credit Lyonnais reportedly reached agreement on refinancing our foreign debt with a loan of $1.5 billion, this morning's edition of AL-WATAN reports, citing French banking sources close to Credit Lyonnais.

This should help relaunch our economy. Moreover, if all goes well, the program of action currently prepared by

the government will be presented to the Higher State Council immediately and released to the public in the coming days.

Egypt

'Amr Musa Briefs Mubarak, Receives Instructions

NC1902160392 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with President Husni Mubarak today. He told reporters afterward that he briefed the president on the Foreign Ministry's newly reorganized agencies, and that he received instructions on ways to boost Foreign Ministry agencies that offer services to the citizens, follow up on the issues of emigration and Egyptians residing abroad, and consular affairs. This is the first reorganization of the Foreign Ministry in more than 40 years.

Concerning the issue of putting the two Libyans suspected of involvement in the Lockerbie incident on trial, 'Amr Musa said that Egypt is continuing to handle the crisis between Libya on one side, and the United States and Britain on the other side. He noted that Egypt is proceeding from its basic principle of safeguarding international legitimacy.

He added: We are consulting with the Libyans and all the other parties in order to attain the best possible solutions in the context of UN Security Council resolutions and international legitimacy.

Musa reemphasized Egypt's opposition to terrorism as a matter of principle. He said that fraternal Libya has announced a similar stand and asserted that it opposes terrorism.

He added that Egypt believes it necessary to put the two suspects on trial as defendants, not as convicts. He noted that Egypt is making efforts and undertaking good offices to overcome this crisis in the best possible way.

On the continuing fighting in Somalia despite the signing of the UN-sponsored agreement to end hostilities, 'Amr Musa said that Egypt is repeating its call to all the Somali parties to halt the bloodshed and the fighting, because that is not in the interest of any party whatever. He urged the Somali brothers to implement the agreements reached under the auspices of the United Nations, the Arab League, the OAU, and the Islamic Conference Organization.

'Amr Musa also called for ending the violence in southern Lebanon, because violence breeds violence. He emphasized that it is necessary to halt all acts that are bound to harm the peace process, such as the building of settlements and the expulsion of Palestinians.

Views Libya, Peace Process, Sudan

NC1902162892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1346 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has asserted that Egypt's attempts to resolve the current Libyan crisis proceed from two principles: First, to prevent any military action against Libya and to try to resolve the issue within the framework of international legitimacy; and second, to protect Libya.

He said that the downing of a civilian airliner with all its passengers is an inhuman act, but at the same time we find it unacceptable to describe the Arabs or any particular Arab regime as terrorist. He added that all the Arab regimes, particularly those who are being accused, must prove their innocence and we must help them to prove it.

In an interview with the magazine AL-MUSAWWAR to be published on Friday [21 February], the foreign minister said that Egypt intervened strongly to prevent a military option against Libya and explained that the issue as it now stands is to act in accordance with international legitimacy and to try those accused for the heinous crime of downing an airliner.

He affirmed that Egypt is seeking to keep the dialogue going in order to find the best possible solution that will safeguard Libyan rights and at the same time firmly confront terrorism.

On the Middle East peace process, 'Amr Musa told AL-MUSAWWAR that the process is stumbling and the situation is very critical. He said that the bilateral talks have produced nothing so far, because Israel has not yet acknowledged the land-for-peace formula and is continuing to build settlements. He said this practice is a death blow to the peace process.

Musa continued: We are waiting for the next round of talks on 24 February, when the reality of the Israeli stance will become apparent. If Israel continues its maneuvering about where to hold the talks and the number and identity of the [Palestinian] delegation's members, this will mean it is not serious about peace at all.

'Amr Musa said that among the positive results of the Moscow negotiations was forging a clear linkage between the multilateral and bilateral talks. He noted that the Arabs were behind this linkage, and everyone, including the United States, focused on it. He announced that if Israel wants to get everything from the Arabs in the context of open borders and Arab recognition of it without giving back the land, then this is senseless talk.

Musa asserted that if Israel continues building settlements, the peace process will not succeed.

Declaring that Judaization, settlement, and annexation is being conducted daily, Musa called for putting the Jerusalem issue on the talks agenda immediately. He noted that if this issue is postponed, all current Israeli

measures in the city must be halted or the whole matter will be an act of deception against the Arabs.

'Amr Musa defended Syria's sound argument for not attending the multilateral talks, saying that it believes that unless Israel makes concessions and becomes cooperative in the bilateral talks, it will not attend the multilateral negotiations. He noted that all the Arab delegations accepted Syria's logic and supported its stance, and indeed, all the statements made at the time supported this approach, except the Israeli statement. He asserted that Israel will not receive anything unless it also gives.

He affirmed that Egypt will not abandon the principle of land for peace, declaring: We will all seek to achieve this by negotiation.

On Egypt's views regarding the refugee, disarmament, and water issues, the foreign minister said that the water issue cannot be discussed in Syria's absence, because rivers flow in Syria; when it returns to the multilateral negotiations this file can be opened. As to the refugee issue, he said one cannot imagine how this issue can be discussed until a Palestinian representative from outside the occupied territories, who is a refugee himself, attends.

Concerning disarmament, 'Amr Musa said that the Egyptian stance is based on two points: First, equal treatment of all the region's countries—which means no country should get exceptional treatment—and second, viewing the region's security as one integral whole and not merely from the perspective of Israeli security.

He declared that total disarmament will be imposed on all parties and all weapons because we are negotiating over peaceful relations, not confrontational relations.

Speaking on Egyptian-Sudanese ties and the Hala'ib issue, 'Amr Musa said it is natural there should be issues on which the two countries have differences. He explained that the disagreement might be about a certain approach or over certain priorities. He noted, however, that bilateral cooperation in the health, education, and irrigation spheres has always existed and has never ceased.

The foreign minister denied recent rumors that Egypt had assisted the forces in southern Sudan, saying that Egypt's policy is to defend Sudan's territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty. He said this is an issue on which there can be no controversy.

Returning to the Hala'ib issue, he said there are administrative borders and political borders, and if any questions or problems are raised about administration or petroleum, an attempt to reach agreement between the two sides should have been made instead of acting unilaterally.

He continued that this issue must be settled in a civilized manner and in accordance with Egypt's unchangeable tenets, which state that there are basic, clear, and known borders.

He said that the role of the Egyptian-Sudanese Joint Committee, formed to discuss unresolved issues between the two countries, is to hold consultations, explain matters, and restore the legal status of the area in question. He said it is natural that there should be some intermingling in the area on the basis of the brotherhood between the two peoples and on the movements of the tribes in the area. He noted that the two countries have mutual interests there.

Israeli Reportedly Planned To Kill Butrus Ghali

NC1902164192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA)—The magazine AL-MUSAWWAR reports that the investigations being conducted into Israeli spy Faris Misrati might reveal serious facts. It has proven beyond any doubt that Misrati visited Egypt nine times. Some of the visits took place before the 1973 October War, when he was assigned to monitor Egyptian forces west of the Canal. He also visited the Bar-Lev line after the war.

In its edition to be published on 21 February, AL-MUSAWWAR says that the investigations have revealed that one of the tasks assigned to Misrati and his daughter Fa'iqah was to contact some extremist groups in Egypt, with the aim of assassinating Dr. Butrus Ghali during the elections for UN secretary general, in order to revive the sectarian problem in Egypt.

It has also been confirmed that Misrati paid 3,000 Egyptian pounds to two Egyptians who helped him obtain three identity cards for himself, one for his daughter, and one for his son. It was also proven that the defendant is a Libyan Jew and had spent some time in al-Hammam in Matruh Governorate. He managed to enter Libya several times and one of his assignments was to try to live in Libya permanently.

Al-Jihad, al-Tabligh Groups Clash in Asyut

NC1802112692 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Feb 92 p1

[Text] A clash took place between members of al-Jihad Organization and the al-Tabligh group in one of the villages of Markaz Dayrut in Asyut, following an attempt by al-Jihad members to seize control of a mosque controlled by al-Tabligh group, which confronted them. Eight persons were injured in the clash.

Investigations carried out by security men under the supervision of Major General Nabil 'Abadah, head of Asyut security; and Maj. Gen. Mahmud 'Antar, head of the Interior Ministry's intelligence service, showed that al-Jihad member Sayyid 'Abd-al-Rajjal Husayn, 39,

opened fire on members of the al-Tabligh group and injured three of them. He was arrested with an automatic rifle in his possession.

Libya

Judge: Law Bars Extradition of Lockerbie Suspects

LD1902162392 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Feb (JANA)—Judge Ahmad al-Zawawi stressed [words indistinct] cooperation in handing over the minutes of the investigation will make us rely on ourselves to arrive at the truth in this accusation." [quotation mark as received] He said at a news conference yesterday in Tripoli that we have begun the investigation in Malta because this accusation points to the bag being placed at Malta airport. We spoke to the Maltese authorities and they replied to us, saying they had conducted an investigation in this matter and they did not establish from the investigation that a bag was placed on the Maltese plane which was proceeding to Frankfurt without a passenger accompanying the bag.

He added: We asked Malta to allow us to listen to some of the Maltese witnesses whose names appeared in the indictment. Malta agreed, and this should take place in accordance with Maltese law. We finished preparing all these questions, and they are now on their way to the Maltese judicial authorities. He said there was a notification from foreign powers that these two people had committed a crime, and in accordance with Libyan law we are required to investigate this notification to arrive at the truth. This requires us to detain anyone mentioned in the indictment lest they escape or flee for instance." [quotation mark as received] He added that Libyan law does not permit them to be handed over for trial by another state. I as a judge apply the law. They will be brought before Libyan criminal courts.

He added: I call on any person who has a link or who has any information on this incident or any People's Bureau abroad. We are prepared to receive any documents relating to this matter and we are prepared to offer all the facilities for anyone with information to appear before us, or we can look at the documents he would present.

He noted that he has received many letters and documents from abroad and even from some English lawyers asking him not to hand over the accused to the English judicial authorities because they will not receive a fair trial. We have these documents and they are from a very well known legal office in Britain. There was a report received by the British police [words indistinct] we as investigating judge cannot be influenced by every media report.

Answering a question about the German investigation in 1989 and the involvement of other parties in this case he said: I know this because it is a link in the chain of the crime or the investigation. It is the link which concerns Germany. Even in the Scottish and American indictment they pointed out to the situation in Malta and the situation in Britain. They completely ignored (?the link) which connects Germany despite the fact that the bomb passed through one of the German ports. There is no doubt Frankfurt Airport is a big international airport. How can a bag like this pass through it?

He pointed out that he has letters attached to the investigation dossiers saying that the German authorities conducted investigations in this matter and they have nothing that points to the involvement of Libyans. However, these letters are not from official quarters but from ordinary people. There are many letters which come to you from ordinary people. Therefore it is our intention to inquire from the German authorities about this link and what took place in it and whether or not measures were take—and if so what are these measures and what did they reveal?

He said that in the past Libyans were committed to criminal courts for crimes they committed abroad, and crimes were committed in Britain itself by Libyans. Those people were never asked to be handed over.

About a question on the American indictment he said: If we receive documents concerning this, definitely they will have their influence on the inquiries. He stressed: We suffer from the tyranny of the media aspect over the legal aspect. What is required is that American and British citizens know the truth about the legal situation regarding the problem and not what is said in the media on the basis of various statements. He said that the political statements made over this affair have led to the suppression of the real, existing legal facts. People must know the truth of the legal situation so that the fates of the families of the victims can at least be determined and so that they know who the real perpetrator is.

He said: Time and again I said that from the legal aspect it is not possible either in the domestic arena or in accordance with the basis and provisions of international law to hand over [the accused]. This is clear in Libya. Libyan citizens cannot be handed over, in Libya or in another state. I do not know of any state that handed over its own citizens to another state for trial.

He added that Libya made gestures and showed enough flexibility to treat this problem, and if these solutions which it put forward had been presented or if the views of the judicial authorities or any other legal party had been sought, it would have been difficult and even impossible for such a thing to occur. He further said that the two sides must agree to resort to the international court, adding: For our part and as far as we are concerned, the matter has been settled even from the point of view of international law because according to customary international law and the rules of international laws, this problem should be resolved by Libyan domestic law, which says that if you arrest the accused in your country, try them there; and if they return to your country then the supremacy of the penal law, (?in force

in the state) compels you to try that person in your country. Furthermore, if it is established that they blew up the plane and killed the people aboard, the punishment stipulated in Libyan law is very severe—that is, execution.

He went on to say: We cannot imagine that an investigation could be closed before the contents of the black box are known. Such matters can only be settled by the evidence from the black box. Unfortunately, this evidence is in the hands of the investigating authorities in Scotland and I am totally convinced that the Scottish authorities conducted their investigation with these facts. But I do not understand why they have not supplied us with them. He added: If this information is not supplied to us, we will reach an impasse. But we have asked to be allowed to go to Britain so that we can do some of the things that can be done now despite the fact that we fully know that three years have passed since the event and this will not achieve the full desired benefit. However, at least the wreckage of the plane still exists, and some of the witnesses are still alive; it is possible to find the reports on the black box with the international aviation authority. However, none of this has happened.

Further on Judge's Press Conference

LD1902201792 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli 19 Feb JANA—Judge Ahmad al-Tahir al-Zawawi stressed that the least description that could be made regarding the bombing of the Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie on 21 December 1988 is that it was a repugnant crime whose victims were 270 innocent persons. He noted that over three years of efforts have failed to track down the real perpetrator of this ugly crime.

In a press statement issued yesterday to a number of journalists in Tripoli, the judge pointed out that the fingers of accusation, according to the established papers of the investigation file, point to various quarters, not including Libya or any of its citizens. However, during the second half of 1991, the United States and Britain leveled accusations against two Libyans regarding the incident. This accusation was coupled with a request from both states to hand over the two suspects for investigation and subsequent trial by their judiciaries.

The two states agreed that handing over the two defendants [words indistinct] satisfy the other requirement and would be enough to solve the crisis.

The judge indicated that the mass media raced and competed by using their various facilities throughout the world to escalate the issue and fabricate information, which had a great effect in overshadowing the legal aspects of the case in both international and internal law with regard to international public opinion in general, and British and U.S. citizens in particular; he noted that this vast media aspect—which outflanked the legal aspect—reesulted in a number of leaked rumors and the circulation of reports, some of which were extraordinary, while others were difficult to believe. He stressed that the aim behind this was to blot out the legal efforts which the Great Jamahiriyah had hastened to deploy in order to reach the legal truth regarding this accusation and ascertain the extent of its truth; this accusation had put in question confidence in the Libyan legal system by claiming that it was not independent or that the Great Jamahiriyah was the accused party; it is absurd to say that the legal authority in Libya would not be able to try the Libyan state; [words indistinct] that the two accused had vanished, that nobody knew their whereabouts, that they had been executed. Such reports are still being believed by some, despite the statements made by the British lawyer Stephen Mitchell to British radio when we allowed him to meet them. He stated that he had visited and held lengthy discussions with them, and declared that reports of their disappearance and execution were political maneuvers forming part of a war of nerves.

The judge also reaffirmed that these rumors and irresponsible statements bear no relation whatever to the truth, apart from the fact that no cooperation was [words indistinct] the investigations being carried out. The judge added that these rumors and statements very much harm [words indistinct] to define their (?position) [words indistinct] not knowing the criminal perpetrator against whom the compensation claims can be made for the material and moral loss they sustained as a result of the incident. The judge said that pursuing the criminals, putting them on trial and punishing them, especially in cases of hijacking or bombing aircraft, is essential work in which the efforts of all states should be united; but at the same time punishment should be within the limits of commitment to international legitimacy and in accordance with the [word indistinct] principles stipulated by the local laws and [words indistinct] in all states, to insure that one mistake is not dealt with by another mistake which may be bigger than the former, and that a crime is not punished by aggression, which is prohibited by the principles of international law.

The judge stated that the international legal rules and the statutes in most countries do not generally allow a state to hand over its nationals for questioning and trial in another state, but the state which accuses nationals from another state of committing crimes against it is entitled to ask this other state to have its nationals tried by its own judicial bodies after it supplies it with the evidence and documents proving their guilt. This evidence has to be unequivocal, and not just doubts or suspicions.

The judge further said: The rule in penal law is the personification of the laws [as received], namely that the provisions of the penal code apply to the persons of the nationals accused in the country. We know of no precedent where a state has handed over its nationals to another state to be questioned and tried for a charge attributed to them by the state (?making the) request. Furthermore, none of the aviation treaties makes extradition obligatory.

The judge also indicated that Article 6 of the Libyan penal code issued in 1953 stipulates that any Libyan national who commits, outside Libya, an act which is considered in this law as a crime or a felony will be punished in accordance with the provisions of this law if he returns to Libya and if the act was punishable according to the law of the state where it was committed.

He added: The (?aforementioned) article provided for the extradition of the accused or the convicted and imposed as a condition—in paragraph D—that the request for extradition does not apply to Libyan nationals. Moreover, Libyan legislation went further than that with regard to the foreigner, as it stipulated in Article 195 that a person accused or convicted abroad cannot be extradited until a ruling on this is obtained from the competent criminal court.

The judge pointed out that on the basis of all these established legal texts and principles, we wrote on 27 November 1991 to [word indistinct] the attorney general of the United Kingdom and the chief of the high court of the District of Columbia in the United States asking them to officially supply us with a copy of the investigations and documents related to the accusation, or enable us to peruse them, or else fix an appointment for a meeting between us and them so as to discuss the matter in the framework of the law. He pointed out that up to now he has not received any reply despite the fact that those letters were delivered through the diplomatic channel.

The judge added: On 19 January 1992, we sent a memorandum to the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice which he sent to the minister of justice of the United Kingdom [as received] which concluded that the investigations taking place here have reached the point where their completion requires important data related to the way the incident happened. These are data such as the official report of the inspection which was carried out on the wreckage of the aircraft and on the place where it fell, the analyses which were carried out on some of its parts, the data of the black box as well as data of the log book of the plane, the statements of the witnesses, and other material evidence which are all in the possession of the investigation authorities in Scotland and which can only be obtained if the judicial authorities in Scotland supplied them to us or if they allowed us to peruse them.

The judge also expressed his regret that he has not received any reply to these requests up until now.

The judge said that should we, for the sake of argument, admit the need to conceal legal evidence, there is nothing whatsoever which justifies hiding material evidence. He emphasized that we all know the basic rule that a person is innocent until proven guilty, and that as human rights and liberty must be respected, so the laws provide for certain guarantees to be made available during investigation and trial, and in the absence of such guarantees, both investigation and trial are null and void.

The judge stressed that the Great Jamahiriyah has put forward many proposals for ending this legal issue after having (?removed) any political problem which would have been difficult or impossible to solve through legal authority or through literal interpretation of legal texts. He added that the Great Jamahiriyah has shown complete willingness to cooperate in revealing the truth we all seek, be that through setting up a neutral international committee, through resort to the International Court of Justice, through the presence of British and U.S. judges, through setting up a joint body from the Arab League and the United Nations, or through any other peaceful means in order to deal with the problem within a legal framework and within the framework of international legitimacy in ways not liable to escalate the situation by involving political considerations which discard the real legal principles that rule the issue and which make out the countries demanding extradition to be at the same time the plaintiff and the judge. He explained that all such proposals were met with either rejection or complete silence on the part of the countries concerned.

Measures Reportedly Taken in Event of Air Strike

NC1402182392 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 10 Feb 92 pp 1, 16

[Excerpt] Arab sources in Cairo have said that while Libya has resumed its efforts and political consultations with several Arab states to contain the explosive crisis with Washington, Paris, and London, the Jamahriyah also has adopted defensive measures to confront any sudden air attack.

The sources affirmed that Libya has added heat-detecting television cameras [anzimat al-kamira al-tilifizyuniyah al-harariyah] to its Soviet-made SAM missiles to detect the F-117 aircraft, better known as "the Stealth," once they enter Libyan airspace. Meanwhile, the antiaircraft "Crotale" missile crews have been supplied with modern radar equipment which Libya obtained from an East European country.

Moreover, the Libyan popular defense forces already have prepared shelters and tested sirens, while the air defense forces have conducted brief maneuvers, during which they tested their early warning systems. [passage omitted]

Attempt To Acquire Russian Submarines Denied

LD1902190992 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, 19 February 1992, JANA—JANA's political editor described reports in the British daily THE INDEPENDENT and the magazine THE ECONOMIST, concerning "Libya's so-called attempt to acquire two Russian submarines," as "fabricated and unfounded."

He said that the content of those reports is a figment of the imagination, and represents part of the campaign to mislead international public opinion.

The editor emphasized that these two publications "are reiterating such allegations at this specific moment as a contribution to the campaign against Libya, in order to find excuses for carrying out aggression against the Libyan Arab people."

Ghanaian Official Concludes Visit, Departs

LD1902231592 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 19 Feb (JANA)—Kojo Tsikata, member of the Ghana Provisional National Defense Council in charge of foreign affairs and security, left Tripoli this morning after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Sudan

RCC's Salih Discusses Protests, Egyptian Ties

PM1802110892 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Feb 92 p 4

[Interview with Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council, RCC, and interior minister, by Suzi al-Junaydi in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Junaydi] Is there any Egyptian mediation to improve relations between Sudan and the other Arab states after the tension that blemished them following the Gulf crisis?

[Salih] Certainly the Gulf crisis created negative aspects within the Arab and Islamic community. Any action designed to mend the rifts in the Arab nation is an object of pride and a positive deed which Sudan welcomes and responds to. But the Egyptian mediation question was not raised at our talks in Cairo or at any time.

[Al-Junaydi] Is there anything new with regard to relations with the United Arab Emirates, especially after the recent diplomatic crisis between the two countries?

[Salih] There is nothing new, but it will not surprise us much if a relaxation occurs in relations.

[Al-Junaydi] Some reports indicate that Sudan is trying to absorb former President Ja'far Numayri and his men, and that contacts are being made with him in this connection. How would you comment on that?

[Salih] In Sudan we do not deal with certain groups. We deal with Sudan as a single unit. We are trying to eliminate sectarianism and partisanship—a new national approach which we are adopting to emphasize Sudan's unity and stability and to proceed toward development in order to participate as an effective member in the Arab and Islamic community. This is why the national salvation movement's aim has been to start with internal reform. We have no blocs or parties. The door is open to everyone, to anyone who wants to offer Sudan something.

[Al-Junaydi] But you have the problem of the South, which could obstruct development projects.

[Salih] A national dialogue conference was held to discuss peace issues and to draw up basic principles for us to follow with regard to the problem of the South. The rebel movement is currently suffering a severe split. The present proposal is summed up in a federation and the application of the Islamic sharia in the North, leaving the southern provinces to govern themselves however they wish. In the end that problem can only be resolved through peace.

[Al-Junaydi] Sudanese-Iranian relations, which have strengthened recently, arouse fears in some people that Iran might be trying to exploit this relationship and to establish a foothold in Africa. How would you comment on that?

[Salih] Iran is a Muslim country, an influential one in the region, and our relationship with it complements Sudan's requirements. As for the pincer question, I do not believe that. All that concerns us in our relationship with Iran is relations and bilateral cooperation; that is all. We hope that the Arab brothers will not consider our relations with Iran a source of alarm but will rather see that Iran is a Muslim state and one which has influence in the region. There are other Arab states which conclude agreements with Iran and seek rapprochement and cooperation with it. On that basis, Sudan builds its foreign relations with whomever it wants, without any influence from any other state. We are not seeking to harm any other state through Sudanese-Iranian relations.

[Al-Junaydi] What is your opinion of the reports that Robert Hodak, U.S. assistant secretary of state, issued a warning to Sudan for sheltering some terrorist elements?

[Salih] First, he did not submit a warning. He came to ask about Sudan's role. Everyone—and first and foremost Egypt—knows the nature of our country and our people. There are no past cases against us of exporting terrorism. The aim of all this is to put more pressure on our country, which is now proud of its social, political, and economic stability and its relations with the Horn of Africa and East Asia. And there are no terror camps in Sudan, as has been reported. Our country is open to everyone to verify this.

[Al-Junaydi] What is the situation with regard to the demonstrations staged in Sudan over the past two days?

[Salih] I am not only the deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council but also the interior minister. I have with me here in Egypt the public security director, and if that were true, we would have postponed the visit.

Actually, the press tends to exaggerate with regard to that matter, and there are no demonstrations inside or outside Khartoum.

[Al-Junaydi] What are the most important subjects which were discussed with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak? How would you assess Egyptian-Sudanese relations at present?

[Salih] First, I would like to say that the meeting with President Husni Mubarak emphasized the eternal relationship between the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples. It provided a pleasant atmosphere for dispelling all the clouds that blemished relations with coolness and stagnation. There will be a positive move soon to correct and develop relations. We agreed that Egyptian-Sudanese relations are one of the existing constant factors and that no regimes, laws, or constitutions can change these. We will all cease to exist, but these constants will not.

[Al-Junaydi] Were the Hala'ib issue and border disputes between Egypt and Sudan discussed?

[Salih] All topical issues, and especially the Hala'ib issue, were discussed, and there is complete understanding between Egypt and Sudan over that question. There are agreements between the two sides. We agreed not to stir up the issue through the media, because there are different ways to handle it. All I can say is that what we managed to establish satisfies both sides in that connection. The Hala'ib question is a sensitive one affecting sovereignty, but the media tend to resort to sensationalism. Plunging into the Hala'ib issue through the media does more harm than good, especially because the two countries have a historical background with regard to Hala'ib. We have reached an agreement that satisfies both sides and in order not to give the West the opportunity to exploit the issue any more.

[Al-Junaydi] Was the question of the presence of some Sudanese opposition groups in Egypt discussed at the meeting?

[Salih] Yes, discussions with President Husni Mubarak and Egyptian officials dealt with part of that issue. But we are confident that there is a commitment from the Egyptians that these people will not engage in any activities against Sudan.

[Al-Junaydi] Does the existence of these groups pose a threat to the regime in Sudan, even in terms of information?

[Salih] I say very frankly that opposition which does not emerge from within has no strong influence, and there are numerous examples of this. So we do not fear opposition from abroad.

[Al-Junaydi] What is the future of Egyptian-Sudanese integration, especially as the joint agricultural committee is the only remaining committee from the integration plan? Is there a certain view with regard to reexamining that integration so as to serve both peoples' interests?

[Salih] Why do we not call it Egyptian-Sudanese unity, not just integration? Actually, there is a plan to set up organs to coordinate policies, and especially foreign policy, between the two countries. My visit to Egypt falls within the framework of laying down foundations between the two countries for further coordination on joint action. These organs will be capable of eliminating all obscurity in relations, and the Egyptian and Sudanese Foreign Ministries will work within that framework. These organs will be established soon, and the two peoples will see them clearly.

[Al-Junaydi] Some people say that the recent Western onslaught against Sudan and the charges of terrorism leveled at it are attributable to your country's negative stand on the peace process. What is your opinion?

[Salih] Of course, I agree that this was one of the reasons. This is because Sudan's position is independent and reflects a vision emanating from within us, not one dictated to us to impose peace. Besides, Israel's clear intransigence makes the Arab states agree with us. We hope that all Arab views will come together in order to unite our ranks and confront the Arab community's main enemy.

[Al-Junaydi] What is Sudan's position on what is happening in Algeria, and will Sudan grant political asylum to any national Salvation Front leader who request it?

[Salih] We wish Algeria stability. The Algerian people are capable of surmounting this crisis because the people's will prevails. We have seen the results of suddenly applying the fashion of our age—namely, pluralism and democracy. Sudan is an open state and requires no entry visa from any Arab.

[Al-Junaydi] Do you not believe that the decision to abolish entry visas to Sudan for Arab citizens has caused adverse results in Sudanese-Arab relations?

[Salih] We had hoped that all Arab states would apply that decision. But each state is free to take whatever measures it wants.

Tunisia

Israeli 'Aggression' Against Lebanon Condemned

LD1902172992 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Following the recent Israeli aggression against Lebanon an authorized source at the Tunisian Foreign Ministry said that Israel's moves in violating the sanctity of Lebanese territory, committing aggression against the sovereignty of an independent state, and killing Lebanese and Palestinian civilians confirm Israel's continuing disdain for all international norms and human rights and its further use of the policy of force and aggression.

These repeated acts of aggression constitute defiance of all international laws, a threat to the peace process, and a denial of the legitimate rights of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. Similarly, the escalation undertaken by Israel under various excuses to deal a blow at the peace process and nullify all efforts supporting this process make it the duty of the international community, especially the countries sponsoring the peace conference, to stand firm and face up to the Israeli intransigence, which goes against the international trend toward peace.

Ghannouchi Says Government Running 'Police State'

LD1902164892 Tehran IRNA in English 1436 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] London, Feb. 19, IRNA—35,000 political prisoners, most of whom have been tortured, along with conservative estimates of over 60 people killed by government security services during the past five years, are statistical norms in Tunisia—a country described by Rached Ghannouchi, leader of the unrecognized al-Nahdah (Renaissance) party, as "a police state."

Since Zine El Abidine Ben Ali declared himself president in November 1987, he has pursued ex-President Bourguiba's strategy of systematic attack on Islamic culture in Tunisia. However, unlike his senile predecessor, Ben Ali has taken the further step of empowering Tunisian Communists to undermine support for the Islamic movement from over eight million Muslims in the Republic. Freedom of expression, association and political opinion are rigorously denied to Tunisian Muslims by the Departement de Securite Territoire (DST), the government's security service.

In an exclusive interview with IRNA, the exiled Rached Ghannouchi, said that the Justice Department, the media, the Interior Ministry and all organizations are all dominated by state police. Universities, held to be the last refuge and symbol of free political activity, are no longer permitted by Ben Ali to host public meetings. 15 students were killed in protests against this latest government crackdown, a measure "supported" says Ghannouchi, by the international media's collective reticence.

A fine line separates Islamic activity from political activity, often an unnecessary distinction, as both are invariably seen to constitute criminal acts. Tunisian Muslims actively opposing the transgression of human rights encounter the full force of government reprisals. The only official body ever to investigate allegations of torture in Tunisia was composed entirely of men appointed by Ben Ali himself in July 1991. Unlikely to be published officially, leaked passages of the group's report tell of numerous cases of death by torture and the widespread incidence of rape inflicted on the wives of arrested Islamic party militants. Amnesty International, the human rights organization, is pressing for the findings to be made public, Ghannouchi says.

With media attention fixed resolutely away from atrocities committed by Ben Ali's DST, few will recall the massacre of 30 students, including one woman, killed a year ago while protesting the routine torture of women in Tunisian prisons. The subjugation of women practicing Islam is not confined to the butt of a rifle, it also operates on a less visible psychological level affecting the education and economic position of Muslim women. Law 108, introduced by Bourguiba in 1981 but enforced "100 percent" by Ben Ali, prohibits women from wearing hejab [veils] at work, school or university. Consequently, says Ghannouchi, thousands of women have abandoned their work and studies.

Ghannouchi's observation: "that's what they mean by the freedom of women in Tunisia—the freedom not to be Muslim" encompasses the deeper implications of Law 108. Not only are the families of women leaving the workforce deprived of much needed income, but in effect, the regulation will also prevent thousands of women from contributing to Tunisian society in an academic capacity. The carving of an intellectual chasm based on gender is designed to distract and ultimately impoverish the community.

All too aware of the regime's attempts to eliminate his nation's traditional framework of Muslim academics and students, Ghannouchi is nevertheless confident that the al-Nahdah Islamic movement will continue to provide a vehicle for expression among the current generation of young academics. Al-Nahdah's concept of Islamic government comes as a challenge to both the dictatorial regime it is striving to replace and to prevailing arguments that democracy cannot or should not take root south of the Mediterranean. Supporters of al-Nahdah, formerly known as the Mouvement de la Tendance Islamique [Islamic Tendency Movement], unlike Muslim movements elsewhere, do not spin an ideological web around the term "democracy" but instead recognize its principles, lying dormant in the West, as inherent to Islam.

Asked to elaborate upon al-Nahdah's commitment to democracy, Ghannouchi explains that for him it is "a way to solve political problems in a peaceful way." He adds that the Muslim interpretation of democracy provides opportunities for ideas to be expressed and establishes a platform for political participation. The Islamic movement's experience of conflict and struggle in Tunisia has led its members to realize that the imposition of religious dogma merely shadows dictatorial force. Ghannouchi's party, if it came to power, would advocate the rule of Islam in "a convincing way." By this Ghannouchi proposes informed debate in mosques, the media and the education system. "Our problem" he says "is not with certain laws but with the absence of law."

Despite the hardships faced by Muslims in Tunisia, al-Nahdah's leader observes among his countrymen a willingness for "minimum spending, minimum consumption and maximum work" in a society driven by its dictators to increase consumption and minimize output.

Turning to the question of the foreign, defence and economic policies of an al-Nahdah led government, Ghannouchi's immediate priorities led him to reply: "Today we're just fighting for our existence." But he affirmed that the basis for conducting the affairs of government would be rooted in the Islamic prerogatives of mercy and discussion, accompanied by a respect for the cultures of others.

The inevitable comparisons between al-Nahdah and the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in Algeria are not lightly entertained by Ghannouchi, he says simply that "Insh'allah [God willing] the will of the Algerian people will prevail."

Muslims worldwide are urged by Ghannouchi to be more radical in "defending freedom and defeating dictatorship." He advised Muslims to put pressure on Tunisian embassies in their countries drawing attention to ongoing human rights violations in Tunisia. Ghannouchi draws inspiration from the revolution in the Islamic Republic in Iran, now in its 14th year. For him it confirms that Islam can defy all forms of repression and "is able to face all challenges. The revolutionary ideals still remain as does the heritage of Imam Khomeyni." It is, asserts Ghannouchi, "from the strength of the revolution, its deepness and originality" that Muslims should resolve the pressing issues of the day.

A one day conference on Islam, democracy and freedom in North Africa will be held in London on February 29th.

Bahrain

Algerian Foreign Minister Meets With Amir

JN1902092792 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0745 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Manama, 19 Feb (WAKH)—Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi left Manama for Abu Dhabi this morning, concluding a two-day visit within the framework of his tour of a number of states in the region.

Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Algerian Ambassador to Bahrain Mohamed Ghalib al-Najjar, Foreign Ministry Protocol Director Nabil Ibrahim Qambar, and Bahraini Ambassador to Algeria Jasim Muhammad Bu'lay bade him farewell.

In a statement to WAKH the Algerian minister praised the results of his visit to Bahrain and described it as constructive and fruitful. He said that he conveyed a message to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, from his brother Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Algerian Higher State Council, concerning the latest developments in Algeria and bilateral relations. He added that he reviewed with the amir and the foreign minister the current events in Algeria and other Arab affairs, including those pertaining to the Arab Maghreb and the Palestine question.

Lakhdar Brahimi thanked the amir of Bahrain for his stands and noble feelings toward the recent events in Algeria. He said that his highness expressed great concern over these events and wished Algeria security, stability, and prosperity under the new political leadership. He also hoped that Algeria would overcome its current problems so that it could play its leading role in serving the causes of our Arab and Islamic nation.

Kuwait

Indian Foreign Minister, Counterpart Hold Talks

BK1602033492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Kuwait has expressed its support to India over the Kashmir issue. The Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, told the visiting External Affairs Minister Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki that the issue should be settled by India and Pakistan bilaterally in accordance with the Simla agreement. He said Kuwait has conveyed this view to Pakistan also.

Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, who arrived in Kuwait City yesterday, had wide-ranging discussions on bilateral, regional, and international issues with his Kuwaiti counterpart. Mr. Solanki apprised the Kuwaiti leader about India's efforts for peace and friendship with Pakistan [Pak]. He said despite this, Islamabad provoked demonstrations in Pak-occupied Kashmir. Mr. Solanki also clarified that India's decision to establish diplomatic relations with Israel will help the peace process in West Asia.

Talking to newsmen, Mr. Solanki said that his talks with Shaykh Salim were cordial and meaningful. The two countries have agreed in principle to set up a joint commission at the foreign ministers level. Reports say the details were finalized yesterday and the agreement is to be signed today. Mr. Solanki is due to call on the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah today. This is the first visit to Kuwait by the external affairs minister since the liberation of Kuwait last year.

Amir, Heir Apparent Receive Algeria's Brahimi

NC1802134992 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] His highness the amir received Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi at 1000 this morning. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad, minister of amiri affairs; and Ibrahim Muhammad al-Shatti, director of his highness the amir's office.

His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, received Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi and his accompanying delegation at his court in al-Bayan Palace at 1100 today. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Saudi Arabia

'Islamic Revolution Organization' Notes Arrests

LD1902114992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Organization of the Arabian Peninsula has issued a statement announcing that dozens of people and clerics who oppose the policy of the Government of [Saudi] Arabia have recently been arrested in various parts of that country.

In this statement the names of a number of those arrested are mentioned, including 11 youths whose ages range from 18 to 29 and who were recently arrested in Riyadh, Ahsa', al-Dammam, and Bakriyah. According to the statement four Muslim clerics have been in Arabian prisons for several years awaiting trial. Also, there is no information on the fate of four Muslim youths who were arrested in that country in recent months.

King Fahd Meets With Algeria's Brahimi

LD1802121192 Algiers APS in English 1036 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Feb (APS)—Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi was audienced Sunday here by Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. Talks held on this occasion centered on bilateral relations and the problems of the area. The two countries decided to give a new impulse to their cooperation in all fields. In this context, the Algerian-Saudi joint commission which has not met since a number of years will be convened in the forthcoming weeks. Lakhdar Brahimi had previously political talks with his Saudi counterpart, Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal, with whom he examined questions of common interest. Lakhdar Brahimi is expected today in Kuwait in the frame of a tour he is undertaking in the Gulf countries.

United Arab Emirates

Al-Qadhdhafi's Son Arrives in Abu Dhabi

JN1802194092 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Feb (WAKH)—Sayf-al-Islam Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the son of the Libyan president, arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening on a several-day visit to the United Arab Emirates.

He was received upon his arrival by Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Youth and Sports Minister Shaykh Faysal Bin-Khalid Bin-Muhammad al-Qasimi, and a number of officials.

Conference of Overseas Mission Heads Opens

Foreign Minister Opens Session

JN1502161192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] At the Foreign Ministry today, Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn opened the annual week-long conference for the heads the Iraqi missions in Arab homeland countries, Turkey, Iran, Asian, African, and Latin American countries.

During the session, Ahmad Husayn delivered a speech in which he reviewed the profound meetings of the Ba'th Party's 10th Regional Congress, the congress of jihad and construction; the valuable directives, which President Saddam Husayn made on the lofty Army Day and which were adopted by Iraqi missions abroad as an action plan; and the achievements Iraqis have made in their great struggle in the battle of construction.

He also referred to the dimensions and impact of the unjust economic blockade, which was imposed on the Iraqi people by the forces of tyranny and aggression; Iraq's Arab and international relations and ways of promoting them; and Iraq's determination to reject treachery, aggression, and U.S. dominance.

State Minister Chairs Session

JN1502191792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Feb (INA)—The annual conference of the heads of Iraqi missions in the Arab homeland countries, Turkey, Iran, Asia, Africa, and the Latin American countries held a second session this evening under Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs.

The minister of state for foreign affairs briefed the participants on the nature, goals, and intentions of the unjust anti-Iraq resolutions issued by the Security Council as a result of continued U.S. pressure. The resolutions are aimed at pressuring Iraq's principled national and pan-Arab positions.

The minister of state also asserted that the Security Council's anti-Iraq resolutions, including the one calling for the continuation of the economic blockade, constitute a serious precedent and will effect world security and peace because the United States is using these resolutions to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs with the aim of harming its security, unity, and independence.

The participants then discussed ways of foiling the schemes being implemented against Iraq under the cover of international legitimacy, as well as means of breaking the unjust economic blockade.

Al-Zubaydi Addresses Conference

JN1602173092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Feb (INA)—Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi has affirmed that the treacherous 30-state aggression and the subsequent heinous crimes committed during the chapter of treason and treachery have not deterred and will not deter the Iraqi people from forging ahead in the victorious march, whose banner is being firmly, proudly, and loftily clasped by his excellency, President Saddam Husayn.

During a meeting he had today with [illegible]oreign Minister Ahmad Husayn and the heads of Iraqi [illegible]plomatic missions in the Arab states, Turkey, Iran, and Asia, Africa, and Latin American states, the prime minister added that the efforts made by zealous and good people to rebuild what the evildoers destroyed have achieved immense results along the path of construction. High performance levels were accomplished in record time, in an unprecedented experience that has become an example to be emulated by free people at this juncture in history, he noted. Zealous and good people derive their resolve and determination from the jihad spirit his excellency, President Saddam Husayn, has demonstrated to keep great Iraq proud, lofty, and immune from enemies and ambitious parties, the prime minister maintained.

The prime minister went on to say that the great accomplishments made during the ongoing reconstruction campaign have shown the truth of Iraqi distinction and excellence, which was epitomized by overcoming all the material, moral, technical, and scientific difficulties. This endeavor bore fruit, and the evidence is that almost 85 percent of what was damaged during the aggression has been rebuilt, he said. He noted that 90 percent of the infrastructure was destroyed by the evildoers and tyrannical forces. He maintained that they deluded themselves into believing that the destruction that they inflicted on this infrastructure would render Iraq a backward country.

Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi addressed the heads of Iraqi diplomatic missions, saying: We, within the command, highly appreciate the efforts that you made during the previous phase. Likewise, we appreciate the jihad that you waged on the international scene, alongside your brothers inside Iraq, who waged their own jihad on the front during the great showdown with the brutal imperialist-U.S.-Zionist aggression. We are aware of the difficulties you are running into in your fields of work in your attempts to clarify Iraq's position on all that has happened in the region and also with regard to the designs and conspiracies being hatched against us. These designs and conspiracies are aimed at destroying our capabilities and our cultural plan, which we have drawn up by our sweat and also by the chaste blood of those who have defended the homeland.

The prime minister urged the heads of the Iraqi diplomatic missions to play their vital and effective role in rendering the diplomatic chapter of jihad a success, since this chapter is an important one in the march of construction and jihad, whose foundations were laid by his excellency, President Saddam Husayn, who is taking part in this glorious march along with his compatriots.

Then the prime minister reviewed the magnitude of the damage inflicted on Iraq's infrastructure during the direct 30-state aggression and the chapter of treason and treachery which, through acts of savagery and aggressiveness, has left nothing unharmed in a bid to undermine this people and the accomplishments of their giant revolution.

The prime minister discussed with the heads of the Iraqi diplomatic missions means of enhancing the work of these missions and upgrading it to the best possible level, to promote the interests of great Iraq.

Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn delivered a speech at the beginning of the meeting, affirming the importance of the role that could be played by Iraqi diplomatic missions at this phase, during which the powers of evil and aggression are attempting to persist in their conspiracies and designs against Iraq. The crime of the unfair economic blockade being imposed on Iraq is one of the key links in these designs and conspiracies, the minister added.

'Aziz Views 'Basic Issues'

JN1702071392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has asserted that Iraq continues to endeavor to achieve the basic objectives on the basis of the principles in which it believes, and which guide Iraq's known and declared foreign policy. 'Aziz was speaking today at the evening session of the annual conference of the heads of Iraqi missions in the Arab countries, Turkey, Iran, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn attended the session.

Tariq 'Aziz discussed in detail the basic issues which Iraq faced as a result of the unjust 30-state aggression and the continued blockade. He also discussed the dialogue with the Kurdish parties and its prospects.

The deputy prime minister also explained to the heads of missions the measures taken by the leadership, including the law on political parties and the strengthening of the internal front, on the basis of directives by the leader of the march, struggler President Saddam Husayn.

The session was also attended by the two undersecretaries of the Foreign Ministry and a number of department heads.

Saddam Receives Ambassadors

JN1702145492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1418 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received Iraq's ambassadors to Arab, Asian, African, and Latin American countries.

He listened to detailed reports on the activities of our embassies in those countries and provided guidance concerning enhancement of relations between Iraq and the nations of the world.

The meeting was attended by Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, Presidential Office chief; Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn; Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, state minister for foreign affairs; and Nizar Hamdun and Sa'd Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, foreign under secretaries.

Foreign Minister Meets Envoys

JN1802161192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn today met with the heads of Iraqi diplomatic missions accredited to Arab and Asian countries. The minister discussed the missions' means of action, bilateral relations between Iraq and the countries in which they serve, and means to bolster and promote these relations in a manner that achieves mutual and common interests in all fields, especially under the current circumstances experienced by the country, represented by the continued crime of the unjust blockade and U.S. pressure on various world states to entrench its hegemony, aggressiveness, and control under the canopy of international legitimacy and the so-called new world order.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal.

Conference Resumes Session

JN1902195792 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] The annual conference of the heads of Iraqi diplomatic missions abroad resumed work by holding a session this evening. Industry and Minerals Minister 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di attended the session and made a detailed review of the American-Zionist-Atlantic aggression and the deliberate destruction by the sinful aggressors of all the installations, factories, plants, and projects which are considered the foundation of Iraq's economic infrastructure and which are closely linked with services extended to all citizens. These services include industrial, construction, food, medicine, and other products.

He also reviewed the brave Iraqis' efforts to rebuild the ministry's installations and projects, which were

destroyed by the evil aggressors. He said that the reconstruction campaign has made big strides and that the specifications of some installations are better than before the aggression.

'Aziz Receives Former Attorney General Clark

JN1702115292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1055 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Feb (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today met with former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

Tariq 'Aziz praised the immense efforts made by Clark and the international figures cooperating with him on a world level to expose the objectives of the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression on Iraq, and to face the tendentious campaigns that are replete with the lies and fabrications of the U.S. and Western propaganda machine against Iraq.

The deputy prime minister highly valued the efforts being made by Clark and those figures to lift the unjust embargo which the United States and its allies have imposed on the people of Iraq.

Justice Minister Discusses Legal Action

JN1702172092 Baghdad INA in English 1650 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 17, INA—Iraqi Justice Minister Shabib Lazim al-Maliki today met the visiting Mr. Ramsey Clark, the former U.S. attorney-general.

During the meeting there was a review of developments of the U.S.-led aggression on Iraq and the heavy human and material damages inflicted on the Iraqi people and their economic institutions.

The two sides have also discussed exploration of means for coordination and cooperation regarding the Iraqis to sue the American Administration for demanding compensations for citizens and bodies and institutions suffered damages in coordination with Mr. Clark and the Justice Ministry of Iraq and Arab Jurists Union and also discussed the agreement on a joint working plan for disclosing the American crimes.

There has also been discussion about the measures taken by the investigating body headed by Mr. Clark for trying the American Administration for its crimes against the people of Iraq.

Al-Maliki, Clark Addresss Symposium

JN1702205892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1810 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 17 Feb (INA)—A three-day symposium organized by the Arab Jurists Union opened in Baghdad today. The participants are discussing "how international law views the aggression against Iraq."

Speaking at the opening of the symposium, Justice Minister Shabib al-Maliki said the conspiracy of the aggression against Iraq did not start on 2 August, but much earlier. This fact was made very clear when the parties to the conspiracy and aggression used all forms and means to implement their aggressive scheme and tighten their blockade against the people of Iraq, he said.

The minister said the aggressors tried to provide false cover for their crimes against Iraq and the Arab nation. They perpetrated these crimes under the alleged cover of international legitimacy and the so-called new world order. These, however, do not represent legitimacy, and they constitute an exposed violation of international law, the UN Charter, and the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, because the aggressors destroyed Iraq's economic and social structures.

The justice minister pointed out that Iraq is making firm and knowledgeable steps to implement its program, which was announced by leader President Saddam Husayn, of moving from revolutionary legitimacy to constitutional legitimacy by abolishing all extraordinary legislation and courts, and by deepening and entrenching the democratic climate through the establishment of party pluralism and the legislation of the press law. [passage omitted]

Addressing the symposium, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark said that the aggression and the war against Iraq are still continuing through the economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. He noted that the lack of food and medicine brought many disasters and a great deal of harm, and caused the death of innocent people.

He said all voices must be raised to end the blockade and the brutal aggression it represents, and to stop the war crimes perpetrated by the United States against Iraq. These crimes are represented by the killing of innocent people through the shelling of civilians and sabotaging economic, social, and industrial structures.

Mr. Clark, who chairs an investigation commission to try the U.S. Administration for its horrible crimes against the people of Iraq, said that he will discuss a report, entitled "War Crimes Perpetrated by the United States Against Iraq," at the United Nations on 29 February. [passage omitted]

Industry Minister Details Damage

JN1802172392 Baghdad INA in English 1630 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 18, INA—Iraqi Minister of Industry and Minerals 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di today conferred here with visiting former American justice secretary Ramsey Clark.

It was reported that Mr. al-Sa'di briefed Mr. Clark on the volume of destruction incurred on Iraq's industrial and

civilian infrastructure by the 30-states aggression and the damage on Iraq's electric power stations which exceeded 90 per cent.

The minister also expounded to Mr. Clark sufferings of industrial installations to the necessary spares as a result to the economic sanctions.

'Harmed' Citizens To Sue

JN1702075292 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 12 Feb 92 p 10

[Text] A responsible source in the General Secretariat of the Arab Jurists Union has told ALIF BA' that the committee charged with receiving the complaints of those harmed by the aggression, which was set up following the call made by Justice Minister Shabib Lazim al-Maliki during his interview with the television program "The File," has begun receiving the complaints against the U.S. Administration and its allies from those harmed by the aggression at its offices in the al-Ittihad Building, opposite the al-Zawra' Gardens, from 1700 to 1900 daily.

The source said the committee had received more than 50 complaints, supported by documents and evidence, by Saturday, 8 February 1992. The committee will formulate these into lawsuits in accordance with the principles of international law in order to present them to the international and U.S. judiciary.

It is worth mentioning that the justice minister's call to set up that committee was in response to requests by the citizens harmed by the aggression to help them sue those who inflicted major damage on them.

'Small IDF Unit' Operating in South Lebanon

TA2002091792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Official military sources report that a small IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit has been operating near Yatar and Kafra villages since last night to locate katyusha rocket launchers and terrorist concentrations. It has been reported that the unit will remain in the area for a limited time and will return to its base after completing its mission.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht has learned from UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] headquarters that eight IDF tanks crossed the security zone border and drove into the villages, accompanied by armored personnel carriers and four helicopter gunships hovering over them.

Serious clashes occurred on the outskirts of the villages between Irish, Finnish, and Nepalese UNIFIL soldiers and IDF troops when the UN soldiers tried to prevent the tanks from entering the villages. According to UNIFIL, at that point IDF bulldozers moved the UN vehicles out of their way.

Yatar and Kafra residents left their homes as far back as Tuesday night, after the Voice of the South radio station ordered them to do so or else face the consequences.

Two UNIFIL Soldiers Wounded

TA2002101992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Two Fijian soldiers with UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] were shot and wounded a short time ago near the villages of Yatar and Kafra. A UNIFIL spokesman told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that it is not clear who shot the soldiers because of the exchanges of fire in the area between IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops and terrorists firing from a distance.

In view of the exchanges of fire, the IDF would not allow UNIFIL helicopters to land at the site of the incident to evacuate the wounded soldiers. Under orders from the UNIFIL commander, however, the helicopters entered the area despite the ban and evacuated the soldiers. The two Fijian soldiers are now undergoing surgery at the UN hospital in al-Naqurah.

Shiite Villages Shelled Overnight

TA2002053992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Residents of the north had their first quiet night in days, as no katyusha rockets fell in the Galilee. Many of the residents spent the night in bomb shelters.

IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and South Lebanese Army [SLA] gunners shelled over 30 Shiite villages overnight in south Lebanon. UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] said Israeli Air Force planes flew over the area and dropped occasional flares.

Residents of several Shiite villages have abandoned their homes and gone north, following yesterday's ultimatum by the SLA for them to leave or face heavy fire.

Retaliation 'With a Vengeance'

TA2002113192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1118 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Telephone report by correspondent in the north Hayim Hecht—live]

[Text] Blasts were heard in the Galilee panhandle a short time ago. A brief check revealed that these were caused by katyusha rockets fired from the north. Several rockets apparently landed on Israeli territory, but there were no casualties.

The terrorists are under a lot of pressure to fire rockets. Although they managed to do that—and this is a great achievement for them—the highlight of this report is that there have been no casualties. Security personnel are now scouting the area to locate the exact spot where the rockets fell.

I have just learned from UNIFIL [UN Interim Forces in Lebanon] headquarters that several katyusha rockets fell in the security zone as well. According to UNIFIL, the Israeli Army continues to retaliate with a vengeance, and its artillery continues to shell Hizballah targets north of the security zone.

Shamir Warns Lebanese on Katyusha Attacks

TA1902155292 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Menahem Horowitz "during Shamir's tour of the north a short while ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Horowitz] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this afternoon toured the Galilee panhandle. Hundreds of residents surrounded him, asking that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] make every effort to stop terrorism and the katyusha fire. Accompanied by numerous reporters from all around the world, the prime minister promised the residents of the north that the government is making every effort to reduce the katyusha shelling of the Galilee panhandle. Here is an excerpt of an interview with the prime minister:

[Shamir] We are doing everything possible through the available channels.

[Horowitz] Will Israel continue operating against the heads of the terror organizations as it did with the Hizballah leader?

[Shamir] We are operating against terrorism, and we hit it as much as the situation calls for.

[Horowitz] The Lebanese residents north of the security zone are very peaceful while residents here sit in shelters.

[Shamir] I do not believe they are peaceful, and they will be even less peaceful if, God forbid, attacks here continue.

[Horowitz] Can you promise the residents of the Galilee panhandle that the IDF and the Israeli Government are doing all that they can to stop terror here?

[Shamir] There is no doubt that the IDF, the whole country, and our full force is here, willing to provide the appropriate answers that will secure the safety of the residents in the region. They can have confidence in the state, the government, and the IDF.

Country 'Will Not Restrain Itself'

TA1902182892 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Salman al-Tawil in Qiryat Shemona on 19 February—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [Shamir] Israel is not and will not restrain itself. Israel is doing, and will do even more, to see that these threats are removed from this area.

[Al-Tawil] Despite the Israeli warning to the terrorists and Hizballah—that if there is no quiet here, there will be no peace there—katyusha firing has continued and, as you have seen, one fell here.

[Shamir] We will use all the means at our disposal, and even increase them if needed, until we have attained our goal, which is a total calming of the region.

[Al-Tawil] What were the reasons that led to the elimination of al-Musawi? Did you consider the possibility of retaliation?

[Shamir] As I said before, this is part of our war against terrorism. Anyone who engages in the war of terror against us will not be immune or have his own personal security assured. [passage omitted]

Levi on Events, Lebanese Minister's Remarks

TA2002062892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi stated last night that Israel's operations in Lebanon will not affect the peace process, because Hizballah is the enemy of peace. He said that the Arab countries and the Palestinians definitely will show up for the peace talks because peace is the best alternative in the region. Minister Levi made these remarks at a rally of his supporters in Bat Yam. Our correspondent Ilan Lazarovich reports:

[Begin recording] [Lazarovich] Foreign Minister David Levi stated last night that Israel cannot hold itself back in light of the path of destruction and murder embraced by Hizballah, whom he described as the enemy of peace, and added that Israel's attacks on it will not affect the peace process.

[Levi] Hizballah says that it considers the peace process an enemy. Its mission, inspired by the Iranians, is to destroy and quash the peace process. Anybody who says that our war against the enemies of peace jeopardizes peace does not know what he is talking about.

[Lazarovich] Minister Levi believes that, in spite of recent events, the Arab countries and the Palestinians definitely will show up for the peace talks because peace is the best alternative in the region. Levi added that he considers the Lebanese Government directly responsible for the attacks on Israel from its territory, in view of the Lebanese foreign minister's remarks encouraging Hizballah to attack Israel. Anybody who utters such words assumes a great responsibility on behalf of his country and apparently has lost his mind, Levi stated. [end recording]

General Sees 'Unbearable Situation' in North

TA1902143392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will deal with the katyusha shelling.

Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern Command, said the katyusha shelling of the Galilee will create an unbearable situation, with which we will not be able to live. He said the perpetrators will pay a very high price until the firing stops. Gen. Mordekhay spoke with our correspondent Hayim Hecht during a tour of locations in the Galilee panhandle where katyusha rockets fell at noon. Studies ceased in the areas where the rockets fell as the students went to underground shelters and were later bused to their homes. IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] artillery continues to shell terrorist targets north of the security zone.

Planes Hit Hizballah Target North of Zone 19 Feb

TA1902161292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Air Force planes this afternoon attacked a Hizballah target in the township of Jibshit north of the security zone. Our Army affairs correspondent, Karmela Menashe, reports that the target was hit and all our aircraft returned safely to base.

Thirteen Injured in 19 Feb Katyusha Attack

TA1902131792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Some 13 people were hurt in a katyusha attack on the Galilee panhandle this afternoon. Most of them are

suffering from shell shock. They were treated on site, and two were taken to a hospital for observation.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir telephoned Qiryat Shemona Mayor Prosper 'Azran and promised that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will take care of the katyusha fire.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that during the past hour the IDF has expanded its shelling of the sources of the katyushas.

Rabin New Labor Leader; Peres Vows Cooperation

TA2002052092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin is Labor's new chairman. He received 40.5 percent of the total vote in the primaries, while Shim'on Peres received 34 percent, Yisra'el Qeysar 19 percent, and Ora Namir 5.5 percent.

Shim'on Peres congratulated Yitzhaq Rabin on his victory and said that he willingly accepts his colleagues' decision. He stressed that he gladly will cooperate with Rabin and do everything in his power to uphold party unity.

Rabin thanked Peres for his wishes and said that he will invite him to a meeting to discuss ways to prepare for the showdown with the Likud. Rabin emphasized that he considers Peres a senior partner in the struggle in the upcoming elections and in the formation of a government.

Some 108,000 voters, constituting 65 percent of eligible Labor voters, cast their ballots in the Labor primaries.

Rabin, Qeysar Comment on Vote

TA2002063892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, Labor's new chairman, already today intends to meet with the party secretary general, his fellow contenders, and the party bureau members. Interviewed this morning, Rabin said that he will proceed immediately to prepare for the 13th Knesset elections and the preceding nomination of the party's Knesset members. He noted that in the future, party members will be appointed to positions according to the results of internal elections. Rabin pointed out that Yisra'el Qeysar has good reason to be happy, because his success was greater than had been predicted by the polls.

Yisra'el Qeysar, who won 19 percent of the vote, believes that his voters came from the ranks of underprivileged neighborhoods, development towns, and Labor's religious party members. He said that the results show that workers can be brought back to Labor's fold and that these are the votes Labor needs to win the Knesset elections.

Levi Rejects Broader Palestinian Representation

TA1902142192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi said there must not be any deviation from the principles agreed on over Palestinian participation in the political process. Our political correspondent notes that Minister Levi was responding to the EC foreign ministers' announcement that broader Palestinian participation in the negotiations should be permitted.

Minister Levi said that in Moscow the United States and Russia, with the approval of all the participants, agreed that what is binding is what is mutually agreed upon by all the sides. Israel stands by that agreement and believes that all the participants in the multilateral negotiations must be loyal to that principle for the success of the peace process.

Detainees in Egypt Said To Be Freed 'Shortly'

TA2002114592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Egypt's Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni says that furniture salesman David Ovitz, who is being held in an Egyptian jail, will be freed shortly. He said he is not suspected of the charges facing the Misrati family. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says Ambassador Basyuni made this clear in a meeting with Ovitz' family. Basyuni said Ovitz was being well treated, but the family should understand the gravity of the charges involved, and a full inquiry had to be carried out because of Ovitz' links with the Misrati family.

Abu-Jabir, PLO's Qaddumi Discuss Peace Process

JN1902192892 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] The foreign minister, Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, met this evening with Faruq Qaddumi, chief of the PLO Political Department. The discussions dealt with the developments in the peace process within the framework of the continuous consultation between Jordan and the PLO. The meeting was attended by Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, member of the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks; Mu'tasim al-Bilbaysi, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry; and al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Amman.

Qaddumi spoke to our political correspondent on his talks in Amman and Damascus:

[Begin recording] [Qaddumi] The purpose of the talks in Amman and Damascus is, as is known, to coordinate and reinforce cooperation among the Arab brothers at this stage in which we feel that the peace process is threatened by the intransigent Israeli position and this Israeli arrogance, which disregards world public opinion, practices terrorism inside the occupied territories, and carries out aggression against Arab borders, as they did in Lebanon.

[Reporter] In your view, which topics will the Arab side concentrate on in the next round of talks in Washington?

[Qaddumi] The main point from which we proceed, from which the world proceeds, and which is considered the decisive point in the peace process is the cessation of settlements. Settlements should be stopped, because this is the point from which we proceed in order to test Israeli intentions of peace as well as to test American intentions.

Security Council Resolution 465, which was agreed on by the international community several years ago, not only calls for halting settlements, but also for removing settlements. We now call—at the least—for halting these settlements if there are any intentions of peace. [end recording]

U.S. 'Idle' Toward Israeli 'Fascist Acts'

JN1902155092 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Feb 92 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "The Peace Process Between Israeli Attacks and U.S. Indifference"]

[Text] The U.S. Administration has emphasized its insistence on doing away with the causes of war and establishing peace and stability in the region!!

This talk sounds good...but how?! How could the U.S. Administration do away with the causes of war and conflict and establish peace in this vital part of the world at a time when it remains idle toward Israel's aggressions and fascist acts of terrorism against Arab citizens in the occupied territories and southern Lebanon?!

How could the Bush administration establish peace in the region while it refuses to exercise political, economic, and armament pressures on Israel that would force it to stop its settlement activity and accept the resolutions of international legitimacy?

It is noteworthy that the Israeli occupation authorities have arrested two members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, and the U.S. Administration, sponsor of the peace process, did not intervene to release them, to enable them to play their role in the negotiations.

Instead of moving to stop the Israeli ground, air, and sea attacks on Lebanon and the killing of innocent children, women, elderly people, and clergymen, the U.S. Administration issued a statement against terrorism, considering the Lebanese and Palestinian resistance operations against the Israeli occupation terrorism!!!

Will all this not disrupt the peace process—a process sponsored by a U.S. Administration that is announcing its insistence on achieving security and stability in the region?!

It is true that by refusing to stop the settlement activity, implement the resolutions of international legitimacy, and end aggression and terrorist acts against citizens in Lebanon and the occupied territories, Israel is obstructing the peace process and may completely paralyze it. It is equally true that the U.S. Administration's indifference toward this Israeli policy will shatter all Arab hopes for a just peace.

The U.S. indifference since the start of the peace process has shaken the Arab parties' confidence in the possibility of achieving peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy.

We believe that if the U.S. Administration continues its bias toward Israel and remains idle toward its aggressions, provocative acts, intransigence, and disregard of the international community's will to achieve security and stability in the region, then the Arab parties will certainly lose confidence in the U.S. role and its alleged neutrality in the peace process, and this opportunity to reach a settlement, which might be the last, might be wasted.

Editorial Notes 'Grinding War' in Lebanon

JN2002090992 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Feb 92 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Southern Lebanon and the Impending Invasion"]

[Text] A grinding war has been going on in southern Lebanon over the past few days. The Israeli forces are continuing their aggression on south Lebanese villages, towns, and camps using all types of destructive weapons on the ground, at sea, and in the air. This has created a state of total destruction in the south Lebanese villages causing residents to flee their villages and towns, away from death and destruction.

This is taking place only days before the start of the fourth round of the so-called peace talks in Washington, without any deterrence by the international community or the United States, the sponsor of the peace conference. Moreover, the Lebanese Government's request to hold a special UN Security Council session to discuss the serious and volatile situation in southern Lebanon was met by U.S. procrastination. The United States blocked the presentation of this request to the UN Security Council, under the pretext of maintaining the peace process that will resume within a few days. The U.S. Administration was content to urge all concerned parties to exercise self-restraint..!!

The massing of Israeli troops in the so-called border strip in southern Lebanon, the concentrated bombardment of Lebanese villages and locations in a bid to dislodge the inhabitants, and the continuing shelling of Lebanese positions, using all types of destructive weapons, portend something greater than bombardment, killing, eviction, and destruction. They indicate premeditated Israeli intentions to expand and bite off a new part of Lebanon under the pretext of expanding the "security zone" and enabling settlers in northern Palestine to live a normal and secure life..!

The next few days and hours will be very critical. New parts of Arab territories may be occupied by the Israeli gangs and a new reality may result from the blow Israel is preparing.

If the Arabs do not put their house in order and rise against this atheist world and its new international order, and if they do not demand all international forums, the UN bodies, and European Community to halt the Israeli aggression, bridle the Tel Aviv leaders, and force them to yield to international will, we shall find ourselves in a situation where we cannot believe in international legitimacy or deal with its suspect moves toward the peace process.

Israel is Israel at time of both peace and war, before and after the negotiations. It does not believe in peace; it only believes in war, killing, and assassination.

New U.S. Embassy Raises 'A Thousand Questions'

JN1802110392 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 17-25 Feb 92 p 8

["The New U.S. Embassy From Inside;" alongside the headline is a drawing of two globes, a big one topped with a U.S. flag, captioned "The Age of U.S. Hegemony;" and a small globe standing on a base with "CIA" printed on it in English]

[Text] In a few days, the U.S. flag will wave over the new U.S. Embassy building in Amman. The flag and the mast were brought especially from the United States for this purpose.

This building, which was constructed by a U.S. company in concert with a Jordanian company, raises a thousand questions in terms of its hugeness and equipment, something described by observers as unusual and going beyond the purpose of the building, an embassy that serves the interests of the U.S. community in Jordan, which is relatively small in number.

The strict security measures around the building are different from those around any other diplomatic center. The building is surrounded by a highly sensitive fence that sounds an alarm as soon as any living thing touches it. This is in addition to the cameras that are fixed on the corners of the fence, and the electronic inspection of the workers in the building to check for any infiltration of electronic or espionage equipment.

The internal regulations also prevent workers from entering certain areas except after obtaining permission from the competent authorities, due to the sensitivity of these areas and the fact that they house equipment whose purpose is not known. Special Defense Department teams installed this equipment after evicting all Arab workers from the building.

The company which executed the project was given easy terms by the Customs Department on the equipment used in the building during its transportation from Saudi Arabia to Jordan.

Some observers believe that this building will serve the U.S. interests in the Middle East.

Saudi Airlines Resumes Amman Service 18 Feb

JN1802144392 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] A Saudia Airlines flight from Riyadh landed at Queen Alia International Airport at noon today, marking that airlines' first flight to Jordan in over a year.

A number of senior officials from the Civil Aviation Authority and Royal Jordanian [RJ] Airlines welcomed the plane. RJ held a reception for the staff and passengers of the airplane as an expression of RJ's welcome of the resumption of Saudia flights to Amman.

RJ Director General Mahmud Jamal Balqar expressed his pleasure over the resumption of flights on this route.

It is worth noting that each week Saudia operates one flight from Riyadh and two flights from Jeddah to Amman, while RJ operates eight flights weekly to Saudi Arabia; two flights each to Riyadh and Dhahran, and four flights to Jeddah.

Current Issue of Islamic Weekly Banned

JN1702081292 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Feb 92 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—This week's issue of the Muslim Brotherhood's weekly al-Ribat was banned from distribution in Jordan, the third time in four months. The publishers

say the weekly was banned for criticising "some Arab leaders' repression of the Islamic movements in their respective countries and for criticising the Middle East peace process," but officials at the Press and Publications Department said they banned the issue because it "slandered some Arab Leaders."

In a statement released by the chief editor of the weekly, Kamal Rashid, issue No. 53 was banned in Jordan because "the paper talked about some Arab countries that practise repression and terrorism against the Islamic movements there and because of subjects dealing with (the Brotherhood's) rejection of the peace negotiations." [Sentence as published]

An official, who asked not to be named, told the Jordan Times that al-Ribat had violated an article in the 1973 Press and Publications Law which prohibits the slandering of Arab leaders. According to the law, al-Ribat, which is not licensed nor published in Jordan, has first to pass censorship by the department before being distributed in the country.

"Al-Ribat is considered a foreign paper because it is not published nor licensed in Jordan, so the law applies to it," the official stressed.

Al-Ribat, according to its publishers, has a distribution of 15,000 copies in different parts of the world but mostly in Jordan. The weekly, although registered in Athens is printed in the free zone in al-Zarka'.

Most weekly newspapers in Jordan, opposition or independent, are registered abroad because none have been licensed here. None of the new papers have been able to obtain permission for publishing in Jordan until a new press and publications law is passed by Parliament.

The press official denied that the issue of al-Ribat was banned because of its rejection of the ongoing Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, saying the Muslim Brotherhood position on the issue was public. The official also denied that another reason for its banning was because the paper discussed the situation in Algeria where the government is cracking down on the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

"The local papers in Jordan write more about what is happening in Algeria so there is nothing wrong with that," the official said.

He added that this week's issue of al-Ribat contained slanderous material concerning Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. He said that the article on Mr. 'Arafat was "offensive gossip."

"It's true that there was criticism of 'Arafat and an article on Saudi Arabia," al-Ribat's editor Kamal Rashid told the Jordan Times. However, he would not elaborate on what exactly was written about the two Arab leaders. "But there are ten other subjects that the press officials objected to," he contended.

Mr. Rashid insisted that the Press Department had red ink placed on 10 different items in the weekly, including the editorial which he said criticised "some Arab governments, without mentioning names, and their positions regarding the Islamists." He added that criticism against the Tunisian government's "repression" of the Islamists was also rejected by the department.

"In a nutshell, they (the censors) don't want us to talk about the Arab countries with which Jordan wants to improve relations, nor to write about our rejection of the peace settlement of the Middle East crisis," Mr. Rashid said in the telephone interview. "We were bluntly told to refrain from continuing to voice our rejection to the peace talks," he claimed.

The Muslim Brotherhood publicly rejects peace negotiations with Israel and the land for peace formula. They advocate jihad (holy war) against the Jews to liberate all of Palestine "from the river to the sea."

This is the third issue in four months banned from distribution in the Kingdom. Mr. Rashid said that the other issues were prohibited because of "our rejection of the peace talks and criticism of some Arab regimes." The Press Department had found the articles in these issues as "inciting trouble," he said.

"We don't criticise Jordan except within the context of the peace talks," he commented.

Mr. Rashid said that he told the press officials he was ready to cut out the parts that were found "offensive," but that the concerned department had rejected his offer.

Mr. Rashid accused the press authorities of "double standards" in their dealing with his newspaper, saying that other newspapers—published inside and outside Jordan—had been writing more critical articles about the same issues and that they were neither banned nor censored.

"This is something that troubles us," he said.

Israeli Forces Advance North of Occupied Zone

Civilians Evicted From Hospital

NC1902140592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Excerpts] The Israeli occupation forces have noticeably consolidated their presence on the Lebanese international border and in the occupied border strip. Citing an Israeli military source, AFP said the measure was a precautionary one, after katyushas fell in the north of the occupied territories. Where they landed was not specified.

The Israeli military reinforcements coincide with recurring attacks on the south and on villages adjacent to the occupied border strip. The Bi'r al-Salasil area came under heavy artillery fire that wounded one person and caused serious damage. Al-Sawwanah also came under artillery fire. Israeli aircraft conducted mock raids over Iqlim al-Tuffah. [passage omitted]

Kafra, Yatar, and Qabrikha came under concentrated Israeli bombardment some time ago, following morning shelling of Bi'r al-Salasil and al-Sawwanah that left one person wounded.

Our correspondent in the eastern sector told us today that the Israeli occupation forces in the past 24 hours brought further reinforcements to the occupied strip. Two convoys made up of about 20 vehicles were seen entering the area via al-Majidiyyah and heading for the Kafr Huna-al-'Ayshiyah axis. Two long-range artillery batteries were installed on the outskirts of (al-Mari). Another convoy consisting of about eight vehicles was seen this morning heading toward the occupation posts in the Kawkaba Hills.

Reports from the occupied strip indicate that militia members entered the Marj 'Uyun Hospital and ordered all civilian patients discharged from the hospital, that doctors not leave the hospital, and that no patient be received without their orders.

Afterward, an Israeli medical team and quantities of medicine arrived at the hospital.

The occupation forces stepped up security measures at Zummarayya Crossing. The forces today prevented a number of people coming from the liberated areas from using the crossing and forced them to return to their villages.

'Violent' Israeli-Hizballah Clashes

NC2002082992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0817 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Israeli forces advanced beyond the security zone this morning. Ten tanks crossed the zone's border and advanced in the direction of Yatar and Kafra in the area of Tyre, and later entered them, according to REUTER.

According to AFP, the Israeli force crossed the UNIFIL [UN Interim Forces in Lebanon] positions in the two towns, and is now clashing with Hizballah gunmen. AFP described the clashes as violent and said that automatic weapons and anti-armor projectiles are being used in these clashes.

Israel had earlier warned inhabitants of the villages of Kafra, Yatar, and Qabrikha to vacate their villages.

AFP has cited independent sources in the south as saying that approximately 20 Israeli armored vehicles crossed the Lebanese-Israeli border to reinforce Israeli forces in the area.

UNIFIL Reinforcements To 'Check' Advance

NC2002084092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0819 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] According to AP reports on the Israeli penetration outside the border strip, the Israeli force consisted of eight Merkava tanks, three armored personnel carriers, and one jeep. The Israeli force set out from Bayt Lif and advanced toward Sribbin, the outskirts of Yatar, and Kafra. The agency cited UN sources as saying that the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] sent armored vehicles to Yatar and Kafra, where UNIFIL maintains positions, to block the advance of the Israeli armored vehicles. A UNIFIL officer told the agency that large reinforcements of the Nepalese contingent have been dispatched to these two villages to check the advance of the Israelis toward the two villages.

REUTER, however, reported that the Israeli forces later entered Kafra and Yatar.

Israeli Bulldozers Break UNIFIL Lines

NC2002092892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Timor Goksel, United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] spokesman, has confirmed that an Israeli force advanced at 0700 today from Bayt Lif in the direction of Sribbin, and stopped on the Kafra-Yatar outskirts, where UNIFIL troops set up a barricade.

In a statement issued today, Goksel clarified that Israeli bulldozers broke through UNIFIL lines and hand-to-hand fighting ensued between Nepalese soldiers and the occupation forces.

Goksel announced that orders have been given to reinforce the Finnish and Irish troops with mechanized units.

Nepalese UNIFIL Soldier Wounded

NC2002094092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] According to the latest information from the south, an occupation force has entered the areas in which UN Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL] are deployed, including Yatar and Kafra in Bint Jubayl District. Another force took up position in the (al-Khazzan) and al-Huqbah Hills and cut the Tyre-Bint Jubayl main road.

The radio of Agent Lahd's militia described it as a security operation and called on the inhabitants of Yatar and Kafra to return to their villages only after the tension ends and the resistance activities halt. It also warned some persons not to return to their villages.

REUTER reported that enemy forces tried to remove the UNIFIL barriers in Yatar and Kafra and UNIFIL dispatched reinforcements to the area.

According to reports, four Israeli helicopters are now raking the town of Sribbin and the outskirts of the town of Haris with gunfire. The reports added that when they entered the al-Huqban Hills, the Israeli forces demolished 20 houses and that one Nepalese soldier was wounded.

Kafra-Yatar 'Violent Clashes' Continue

NC2002085492 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0830 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] We are still awaiting fresh reports from responsible Islamic resistance sources on the violent clashes which have been taking place on the Kafra-Yatar frontline since 0920 today between the Islamic resistance mujahidin and the Zionist occupation forces, which have penetrated the area. Resistance sources confirmed that there are violent clashes and that they are trying to check the Zionist advance.

'Mass Exodus' to Tyre, Sidon

NC2002093992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0924 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] In the latest military information received from the south, our correspondent reported a short time ago that the artillery shelling of the towns of Yatar, Kafra, Haddathah, Qabrikha, Majdal Silm, and the outskirts of the towns of Tulin, Haris, and 'Ayta al-Sha'b has intensified.

Our correspondent in the area emphasized that 30 minutes ago three helicopters participated in the battles raging in Yatar and Kafra and that these towns are still being subjected to continuous artillery shelling.

All the schools in the area are closed and a mass exodus is taking place in the direction of Tyre and Sidon.

'Fierce' Battles in Kafra

NC2002092692 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0855 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] We have just received the following news from the Islamic Resistance Operations Room:

Fierce and grinding battles are currently being fought at the gates of Kafra in which various types of weapons are being used. Zionist helicopters attempted to land troops near Yatar. The Zionists have also attempted to advance toward al-Huqban Mountain. Five helicopters are combing the al-Huqban area.

Zionist troops have also crossed into an area controlled by the UN Interim Force in Lebanon near Sribbin.

The Islamic resistance fighters are in high morale and confronting the treacherous attack with the fighting spirit of martyr 'Abbas al-Musawi.

Israelis Control Haris-Qana Road

NC2002091992 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0847 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] According to reports from the south, the Israeli force which crossed the border strip has taken control of Yatar and Kafra, and has continued its advance and taken control of two hills in the two areas. It also has taken control of the Haris-Qana road.

An Israeli military source stated a short while ago that the Israeli army's targets are the saboteurs and terrorists, not the civilians. The source said that the houses of Hizballah elements in Yatar, Kafra, and Qabrikha are known and regarded as terrorist bases. The military source also said that Kafra and Yatar residents will be able to return to their houses after the firing of katyusha rockets stops.

Israelis Take Position Overlooking al-Biqa'

NC2002095992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] People arriving from the south report that an Israeli force is positioned at the al-Surayri-Maydun-Dallafah triangle, which overlooks the region of western al-Biqa'. It consists of 15 vehicles, including tanks and armored personnel carriers.

The occupation forces penetrated the Marj 'Uyun valley in the direction of the border and set up night ambushes to prevent resistance fighters from infiltrating the occupied security strip. Other forces crossed the Khardali road in the direction of al-Wadi al-Akhdar to disperse along the axes of al-'Ayshiyah, al-Rihan, Kafr Hunah, al-Nabi Tahir ridges, Kafr Rumman, and Kafr Tibnit. Additional forces also headed for Qal'at al-Shaqif.

The occupation forces have stepped up their patrols and combed their supply lines, warning civilians against taking military roads and stopping in places they described as suspect.

Populace Fleeing to al-Nabatiyah

NC2002133092 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1210 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Our correspondent in the south reported a short time ago that clashes are taking place in villages in the Bint Jubayl district and that shelling extended to the villages of 'Aytit and Qana in the Tyre district, where there were some civilian casualties.

According to security sources, the clashes in Kafra left one Israeli casualty and 17 resistance fighters wounded.

There is a mass exodus of people toward al-Nabatiyah.

Amal Claims 'Control' of Kafra

NC2002120192 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1143 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] The Amal Movement's operations room issued the following statement at 1230 today: The violent confrontation between the Israeli occupation forces and the Amal Movement forces inside Kafra are continuing. Two of our fighters were martyred during this confrontation. The violent shelling of the village is continuing and intensive overflights by military aircraft are taking place.

At 1245 today, the Amal Movement announced that its fighters were able to regain control of Kafra after a violent confrontation during which the enemy suffered two dead and three wounded. The movement's fighters are confronting an Israeli attempt to advance toward Yatar, after the attacking force overran a position of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon and crushed four UN vehicles.

We learned a short while ago that a number of katyusha rockets fell in the Galilee area.

Hizballah Claims To 'Repulse' Advance

NC2002093292 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0905 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Our fighters, praise be to God, have managed to repulse the Zionist advance, inflicting heavy losses on the invaders. Islamic Resistance mujahidin are chasing the withdrawing enemy troops combing the area.

Hizballah Urges 'Full Mobilization'

NC2002122892 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1137 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Statement issued by the Islamic Resistance Operations Room]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Fight them and God will punish them by your hands, cover them with shame, help you to victory over them, heal the breasts of believers. [Koranic verse]

O sons of the nation of the Koran, our heroic mujahidin, since early this morning the lovers of jihad, the makers of the nation's dawn, and the resistant heroes have been locked in a most ferocious battle with Zionist invaders on the Jabal 'Amil Hills. Our fighters are confronting the attempts by the Zionist forces to advance on the Sribbin-Kafra-Yatar line under heavy and unceasing cover of tank and gunship-fire.

Fierce fighting continues on the approaches to Kafra and Yatar. The faithful mujahidin are writing an epic of bravery and valiance. Our fighters are translating into action their pledge to their disenfranchised people and to the great martyr of the Islamic resistance, whose blood has not yet dried. Our fighters have proved their heroic resolve to defend their people and repulse the attackers. These fighters are the watchful eyes, the proud spirit, and the true defenders of the nation, its dignity, and honor.

The Islamic resistance fighters succeeded, with the assistance of God Almighty, in inflicting great losses on the invaders, and forced them to retreat and to fight under duress and with low morale. The morale of our fighters is at its peak, as if they were fighting side by side with Prophet Muhammad in al-Khandaq and Khaybar.

Our brothers are acquitting themselves in battle to prove that the arrogant but cowardly enemy is no longer able to strike at will. We call on our people to maintain the highest degree of awareness and vigilance, to close their ranks, and to stick together. We should maintain a general and full mobilization to confront any hostile practices by the Zionist enemy.

If ye will aid the cause of God, He will aid you and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verse]

Nasrallah: 'Stand Fast'

NC2002133592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1304 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] We have just received the following report: Fierce fighting is currently raging between resistance men and occupation forces on the Yatar-Sribbin road. Security sources have dismissed reports that the occupation forces have managed to enter Yatar, adding that violent clashes are currently taking place on the ridges overlooking the town.

Hasan Nasrallah, the new Hizballah secretary general, called on the mujahidin to confront the Israeli aggression with all available means in implementation of the orders issued by the Islamic Front command. Nasrallah called on the citizens in the areas that are the scenes of battles to stand fast in the face of the Israeli invasion.

Defense Ministry Issues Communique

NC2002131492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1222 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Statement by Defense Ministry Information Department issued "a short while ago"]

[Text] Since this morning, the Israeli enemy has been conducting combing operations within the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] areas. The enemy is targeting the villages of Kafra, Yatar, Haris, Sribbin, Qabrikha, and al-Ghanduriyah, as well as the areas south of the al-Litani River, and al-Huqban and al-Khazzan Hills. The enemy is using infantry units supported by tanks in its operations. The enemy is using artillery and helicopters in the bombardment. The enemy has blown up several houses in these areas and has caused civilian casualties.

The Lebanese Army continues to follow orders to use all possible means to confront the enemy in the area of its deployment in the south. Army Commander Emile Lahhud is personally supervising the situation there.

[Paris AFP in English at 1227 GMT transmits a Beirut datelined report on the Defense Ministry's communique

which adds: "The Lebanese Army was on 'maximum alert' Thursday and warned it would fight back if Israeli troops advanced on its positions in south Lebanon, where Israeli forces and Hizballah guerrillas were battling.]

Army Placed on 'Maximum Alert'

NC2002133892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1235 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Here is a report from the news desk: The Defense Ministry has announced that the Lebanese Army and reserves have been placed on a state of maximum alert to confront any attempt to advance toward the areas where the Army is deployed in the south during military operations. Defense Minister Michel al-Murr held a meeting of the General Staff after 1400 today to follow up developments in the south, where fierce battles are raging between the Israeli Army and Hizballah fighters.

Shelling, Rocket Attacks Reported 19-20 Feb

'Intensified' Shelling Reported

NC1902173392 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1710 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] We have just received the following report from our news desk: Our correspondent in the south reported a short while ago that the bombardment of some of the southern villages, particularly the villages in the central sector, intensified this evening. According to our correspondent, approximately 200 shells fell this evening on the villages of Yatar, Kafra, and Qabrikha. Reports by our correspondents indicate that four katyushas fell in Bilat and one in al-Qantarah, both inside the security belt.

Helicopters Attack Jibshit

NC1902165992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1640 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Two Israeli helicopters attacked two houses on the ridges of Jibshit at 1700 today.

[Paris AFP in English at 1545 GMT on 19 February, in a Sidon-datelined report, says: "Israeli helicopters on Wednesday mounted a rocket attack on a village in southern Lebanon dominated by the pro-Iranian movement Hizballah, police reported.

["But they made no mention of casualties in the late afternoon raid by two helicopters on Jibshit, where six people were wounded in Israeli shelling on Tuesday."]

'Civilian' Target Hit

NC2002092292 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] The Zionist enemy last night stepped up its attacks on the south's steadfast villages. According to reports, the Zionist enemy bombarded Qabrikha, al-Sawwanah, Tulin, Yatar, Kafra, and Siddiqin at the rate of one shell every two minutes. The fierce shelling followed katyusha attacks on Zionist Army headquarters in al-Balat and al-Qantarah villages inside the occupied border strip.

Hizballah announced that the Zionist raid against Jibshit hit an uninhabited civilian target.

Zionist enemy planes last night carried out mock raids in the south, firing flares.

According to AFP, one civilian was killed and 27 [figure as heard] were injured by Zionist shelling, which has been taking place in the south since Monday.

In response to these attacks, 65 katyushas were fired at Zionist settlements in the north of the occupied land last night. Approximately 120 katyushas fell on Zionist settlements in the past three days, according to UN sources, the most katyushas to be fired on the occupied land since 1981.

Rockets Hit Israeli Positions

NC1902213592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2120 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Citing security sources in southern Lebanon, AFP reports that katyusha rockets hit two Israeli Army positions in the security zone this evening, specifically in Balat and al-Qantarah villages near Marj 'Uyun, where the Israeli military headquarters is located. There are no reports of casualties yet.

Palestinians Said Firing Rockets

NC1902132392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] The frontlines in the south remain tense for the third consecutive day because of artillery exchanges which have covered the security strip and areas up to northern Israel.

Our correspondent has reported that Palestinian elements are firing the katyusha rockets in a bid to increase the tension, and that Hizballah has not decided how it will retaliate for the assassination of its secretary general.

According to reports, the shelling has created a great wave of popular anger and a mass exodus from the region.

Cabinet Meets 19 Feb; UN Statement Expected

NC1902193992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] In a session that began at 1830 and ended a short while ago, the cabinet was briefed by Ministers Faris Buwayz and Nabih Birri on the contacts made regarding the situation in the south. The foreign minister informed the conferees that the Security Council is in session and that a statement regarding the Israeli acts of aggression in the south could be issued.

During the session, the cabinet approved a 60-percent pay raise on the first part of salaries [not further specified], up to 150,000 Lebanese pounds, and a 50 percent raise on the second part of salaries.

Buwayz, UN Envoy Comment

NC2002074592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] The UN Security Council held a 10-minute meeting last night, during which a statement was read calling on the parties to maintain a maximum degree of self-restraint. U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering, who read the statement, affirmed the council members' commitment to Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity within the internationally recognized borders, as stipulated by Resolution 425. The statement also stressed the need for any state to refrain from threatening the territorial integrity and independence of any other state. It urged all parties to work actively to bolster the Middle East peace process. The council particularly denounced the recent murders and the continuing violence, which threatens to take more lives and undermine stability in the region.

Khalil Makkawi, ambassador to the United Nations, expressed the hope that Israel will regard this statement as a signal to stop its continuing attacks against Lebanon.

Answering a question about the terrorism attributed to Hizballah, Makkawi said: This party consists of Lebanese who are fighting the occupation in southern Lebanon. They have the right to do so, as occupation is unacceptable by any state, and they are not terrorists.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz described the UN Security Council statement as fairly good and satisfactory, although Lebanon would have liked the council to adopt a resolution. This is because a resolution has more impact than a statement, particularly under these circumstances.

Buwayz ruled out the possibility of a wide-scale Israeli invasion, affirming that the military and security information available to the government do not indicate that something of this sort will happen. The possibility of a limited military operation by Israeli occupation forces against some villages adjacent to the border strip cannot be ruled out, however, if the existing tension continues, he said.

Al-Murr Holds News Conference on Damascus Talks

NC1902150892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1210 GMT 19 Feb 92

[News conference given by Lebanese Defense Minister Michel al-Murr; place not given—recorded]

[Text] I have given a briefing on the events that have taken place over the past three days. It was a detailed briefing given to the Parliamentary Committee for Defense, so that the Chamber of Deputies would be aware of the developments and events taking place in the south.

No doubt these events are taking place rapidly and it was essential to discuss the events in a practical manner and to demonstrate the facts to the deputies so that they could follow up on the government's activities in this regard.

My briefing is summed up as follows: Regarding the Lebanese Army, the Army is steadfast in its positions and the government has made a decision that the Army will repel any attempt to commit aggression against the villages and the areas where the Army is deployed, and to retaliate with all the means available for any aggression to which the south or its inhabitants may be subjected.

Furthermore, I briefed the committee on the government's stand regarding support for the steadfastness of the south's inhabitants. Therefore, the government stand is clear, as is that of the Lebanese Army, which is holding fast to defend the homeland. The Army is performing a sacred duty.

After the deputies listened to our briefing, we heard ideas and discussion, and the Parliamentary Committee for Defense adopted a resolution to support the Lebanese Government's stand and the Lebanese Army, as well as the steadfastness of the people of the south. I think that the committee's chairman will read you the text of the resolution.

[Unidentified correspondent] Your excellency, Israel has warned against interference by the Army. If the Army interferes and responds to Israel's attacks, can we consider this the beginning of a confrontation between Lebanon and Israel?

[Al-Murr] Lebanon is suffering from Israeli occupation and the Lebanese Army is present on its own land. The Lebanese Army cannot possibly submit to any warning or threat because it must carry out its sacred national duty. The Army cannot relinquish the honor of defending the homeland and its soil, because we will not submit to any warning or extortion. The Army will resist with all means because this is its national duty, and the Army—command, officers, and soldiers—considers confronting the aggression against the homeland and its citizens as its basic task and national duty. Our stand is clear.

[Correspondent] Your excellency, media reports have voiced fears about a military operation, or rather an invasion. What information does the Defense Ministry have on this, and in what context did your meeting in the Syrian capital take place?

[Al-Murr] The situation in the south is difficult. We cannot say that it is normal. You probably heard this in the media. With regard to the Defense Ministry and Army, I said and I repeat it now that we will not only defend the Army positions, but all the areas in which the Army is deployed, which is Lebanese land. This is our stand.

Regarding my visit to Damascus, it was within the context of the Lebanese-Syrian treaty and the existing bilateral security and military agreement. We found

complete support, and the aid we requested was provided immediately and without any hesitation.

[Correspondent] Your excellency the minister, Israel is shelling Lebanese territory. Is the Lebanese Army responding by shelling Israeli territories, or is it just bombarding the positions adjacent to the security belt? And what is your stand regarding the shelling being traded between Lebanese and Israeli territory?

[Al-Murr] The Lebanese Army is responding to the positions from which fire is originating; that is, wherever it comes from. It finds the artillery emplacements firing at it or the villages and returns the fire. Thus, whether the fire comes from inside the occupied Lebanese territories or from inside Israeli territory, the Lebanese Army returns the fire, wherever it comes from. Let us make one thing clear. As far as the south is concerned, there is a resolution called Resolution 425 that calls for Israel's immediate and unconditional withdrawal from the occupied territories. This resolution is yet to be implemented. We, the Lebanese Army, are on our territory and are defending our soil and homeland. Therefore, how and where we respond and from where the shell [words indistinct], we are shelling the positions which bombard the inhabitants or the Army, and our duty is to respond.

[Correspondent] Your excellency the minister; Israel's desire is to abort the peace process. Could we say that the current cycle of escalation prior to the upcoming round in Washington is intended to abort the peace process for good or just to impose specific conditions?

[Al-Murr] That could be true. So far, Israel has not shown a positive attitude during the negotiations. Their current escalation could be, as you said, to achieve that goal, although we cannot say abort because there are major countries involved in this conference and they run world affairs and have their own stands. Therefore, I do not think they would let the negotiations be halted that easily.

[Correspondent] Your excellency the minister; you talked about Syrian support. As far as the Lebanese-Syrian treaty is concerned, how will Syria's support for Lebanon materialize?

[Al-Murr] This issue concerns military details that we cannot reveal to the media. Support means complete support as outlined in the Lebanese-Syrian treaty as well as the security and military agreement between Lebanon and Syria. We have full support.

[Correspondent] Your excellency the minister; what are Israel's aims toward Lebanon in assassinating 'Abbas al-Musawi, other than curbing the Islamic resistance?

[Al-Murr] The basic aim is to strike at the main symbol of national resistance. It was justified by the operation that took place inside Israel, an operation which the Palestinians carried out inside the occupied territories. It was not carried out by the Lebanese resistance, so we cannot say it was carried out in retaliation. So, I believe that this act, which we denounced and which the government denounced, was an attack against one of the symbols of resistance in order to strike at the resistance. For this reason, Israel's aim is clear. It is a flagrant aggression. We cannot say it was a bombardment of a village in the border zone. No, it was an aggression within Lebanese territories using aircraft. What could it say before the international community and the world when helicopters were flown in to bombard a civilian motorcade driving along a road? For this reason, it was not an aggression but rather piracy, the aim of which was to strike at the resistance, or a symbol of resistance. This itself is a criminal act and an aggression against all of Lebanon.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] to lodge a Lebanese complaint with the Security Council regarding [words indistinct]

[Al-Murr] A complaint has already been lodged, and the Security Council is supposed to meet within 24 hours. We will see what resolution it will make. We hope that the resolution will not call for self-restraint, as we are hearing from diplomats, because I do not know what this term means. Lebanon does not need self-restraint. Lebanon needs the liberation of the south and the implementation of Resolution 425. Thank you.

Lahhud Interviewed on 'Responsibility' of Army

NC1902110892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] The Army commander, General Emile Lahhud, has emphasized the Army's responsibility in the south. He said that the homeland's interior is the responsibility of the Army, so the south too is the responsibility of the whole Army, and its eyes will always remain open.

In an interview with the AL-JAYSH magazine, General Lahhud indicated that the Army will witness a qualitative development not only on the level of training, but also on the level of combining the sectors and units, in addition to an effective and final merger operation that will eliminate vestiges left by the war.

Minister of State: 'Resistance Will Not Stop'

NC1902164692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Minister of State 'Abdallah al-Amin visited al-Nabatiyah this afternoon and met with Captain Camille Sham'un, official in charge of the Lebanese Army intelligence section in the region, and a number of security officials.

Minister al-Amin emphasized after the meeting that the Lebanese Government, parties, and people at this moment are unified around the Lebanese Army to confront any Israeli aggression, and that no one can drag the Army into marginal and peripheral clashes.

He said that the resistance in the south is part of the peace process and that without resistance, there will be no peace. Resistance will not stop, he added, until the last Israeli soldier withdraws from Lebanon.

German Defense Official Visits, Discusses Aid

Meets With Karami

NC1402215392 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Prime Minister Karami met this evening with the German state minister for defense affairs, who arrived in Beirut on an official visit at the invitation of Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies.

Comments on Karami Meeting

NC1502153692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Holger Pfahls, German secretary of state for defense, arrived in Beirut yesterday leading a German Defense Ministry delegation. He held talks with Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, in the presence of deputies Na'ilah Mu'awwad and Nasib Lahhud.

The German official said that the discussion dealt with military aid and German hostages in Lebanon. He said: The talks were generally successful and friendly and we hope to meet in the future.

Asked about providing urgent German aid to Lebanon, he said: One of the reasons for my visit is to investigate the type of assistance needed and what we can offer.

Ministry Denies Negotiating on Hostages

LD1502133692 Hamburg DPA in German 1308 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—Ludwig-Holger Pfahls, the secretary of state in the Defense Ministry, is currently holding talks in Lebanon on the possibility of humanitarian aid. This was announced by the Defense Ministry in Bonn today. At the same time, the ministry rejected as inaccurate reports stating that Pfahl was negotiating on military aid and the two German hostages held there, Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner.

The Defense Ministry says that Pfahl's visit was prompted by the unexpected and severe onset of winter in Lebanon. There was an urgent need for tents, blankets, medicine, and trucks. Military equipment and weapons were not a topic of discussion.

FRG's Pfahls Sees al-Murr, Lahhud

NC1502182992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Ludwig-Holger Pfahls, secretary of state at the German Defense Ministry, his delegation, and German Ambassador Peter Kiewitt, called on Michel al-Murr, deputy prime minister and national defense minister, this morning at his office in the Defense Ministry in al-Yarzah.

After the meeting, the German official said he discussed several matters dealing with developments in Lebanon, building the Army's structure, and bilateral relations. Answering a question, he said there will be no direct military aid to the Lebanese Army but for humanitarian reasons Germany will send some equipment to rebuild and help the Lebanese Army. He explained he is happy with the current stability in Lebanon, expressing the hope that all authorities will work to help solve the issue of German hostages in Lebanon.

Minister al-Murr said he explained to the German official the state's institutions and needs, especially for loans. There was a an immediate response. They promised aid such as cars, trucks, and medicine to benefit the medical and logistic brigades.

Answering a question on the two German hostages in Lebanon, al-Murr said Lebanon intends to use all available resources to solve this problem once and for all.

The German visitor also met General Emile Lahhud, commander of the Army, at his office in the Defense Ministry and discussed the Army's requirements and the situation in Lebanon.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1715 GMT on 15 February reports: "The German Defense Ministry denied reports today that the visit of Secretary of State Ludwig-Holger Pfahls to Beirut is for talks on military aid and to discuss the fate of the two German hostages.

["The ministry said that these reports are untrue and that the minister will hold talks with the Lebanese Government on possible humanitarian aid. It added that there was a misunderstanding between him and correspondents at Beirut Airport yesterday.

["Following his meeting today with Defense Minister Michel al-Murr and General Emile Lahhud, commander of the Army, the German official said that Germany will, together with the EC, give the necessary financial aid to Lebanon. He expressed his belief that Lebanon will obtain money and other aid when the hostage issue is resolved."]

Reportedly Links Aid to Hostages

LD1502211892 Hamburg DPA in German 1827 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Beirut (DPA)—Ludwig-Holger Pfahls, secretary of state in the Defense Ministry, made it clear during his visit to Beirut today that European aid for the reconstruction of the country devasted by 15 years of civil war depends on Lebanon's stand on the German hostages, Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner. Pfahls said that in a discussion with Lebanese President Ilyas Harawi, he discussed the worldwide efforts to secure the release of the two Germans.

Pfahls said the Beirut government is dissatisfied with the slow progress of the negotiations on the release of the hostages, because it is an obstacle to investment in Lebanon. He is sure that money will flow into the country as soon as the hostage issue has been resolved. [passage omitted]

Buwayz, German Ambassador Discuss Hostage Issue

NC1802175692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and German Ambassador Peter Kiewitt today discussed the issue of the two German hostages held in Lebanon, and its link with the suspension of EC aid to Lebanon. The ambassador affirmed that the resolutions are not final and not targeted against the Lebanese Government and people. He noted that the German Government's view of Lebanon is affected by the holding of the two German hostages.

Kuwaiti Delegation Arrives From Damascus

NC1802180192 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] A Kuwaiti delegation led by National Council Speaker 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id arrived in Beirut from Damascus this afternoon. The delegation was received by Deputy Chamber Speaker Michel Ma'luli on behalf of Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Huayni; and by Deputy Talal al-Mir'abi and a number of officials in the Kuwaiti Embassy.

At the airport, al-Masa'id asserted that he will discuss with Lebanese officials ways to bolster future economic, cultural, and social cooperation. He said the delegation members will thank the Lebanese officials for their stand during the Iraqi devastation of Kuwait.

Deputy Ma'luli said the Kuwaiti delegation's visit to Lebanon is very significant, because it reaffirms fraternal relations between the two peoples.

Egyptian Mufti Denies Making Anti-Druze Ruling

NC1502151592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, received Egyptian Ambassador to Lebanon Abu-Zayd 'Umar in al-Mukhtarah at midday today and reviewed current developments with him.

The Egyptian ambassador handed Junblatt a copy of a letter sent by Egyptian Mufti Shaykh Tantawi to AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I. In the letter, Mufti Tantawi denies that he passed any religious rulings against the Arab Druze community.

Following the meeting, Junblatt said: We have long-standing relations with Egypt. It is true that the political circumstances in Egypt and the Arab world have changed, but we are eager to maintain our relations, despite all political barriers, because we are aware of Egypt's political weight in the Arab and Islamic worlds. The Egyptian ambassador has denied all the rumors, particularly the one involving a statement attributed to Shaykh Tantawi about the Arab Islamic Druze community.

Junblatt added: The ambassador made it clear that these claims are mere rumors. It seems that Shaykh Tantawi also denied the statements attributed to him by one of the Egyptian newspapers. What was published was a lie. I have the text of the denial with me now and will give it to you. We thank the Egyptian ambassador, the Egyptian authorities, and Shaykh Tantawi. We appreciate the fact that Shaykh Tantawi made a point of denying these remarks that could have harmed the unity of the Islamic and Arab national ranks.

The Egyptian ambassador said: I am always glad to meet His Excellency Minister Walid Junblatt because of our strong official and personal ties. In all our meetings, we review the regional and international situation. My meeting with Junblatt was very useful.

Following is the text of the denial issued by the office of the mufti of the Arab Republic of Egypt:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Dear and venerable brother Mursi 'Atallah, AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I chief editor, may peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Attached to this statement is the detailed letter I received from Muhammad Qasim As'ad Naffa', in which he informed me of the remark about the Druze community which AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I attributed to me in its 28 September 1991 issue.

I would like to inform your excellency that I have not made any such remarks, neither explicitly or implicitly, directly or indirectly. No one from AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I has even discussed that subject with me. Therefore, I would like you to publish a retraction of the remarks attributed to me without my knowledge, and take the necessary measures to ensure the factual rendering of news and religious rulings. May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Shaykh Tantawi, mufti of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

[Dated] 1 January 1992.

Al-Shar', Qaddumi Clarify Participation in Talks

JN1902174392 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1712 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Dispatch from 'Abdallah al-Dardari in Damascus]

[Text] Syria has affirmed its participation in the bilateral negotiations in Washington despite Israel's military escalation in southern Lebanon. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that Syria's participation in the Washington talks is not a subject for discussion despite Israel's recent utterances [istishhadat].

In a statement to the press, al-Shar' said that Israel does not want peace and is doing its utmost to ruin the peace process. Al-Shar' asserted that peace will not exist between the Arabs and Israel without Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

For his part, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, said that there was perhaps a misunderstanding concerning the announced suspension of the Palestinian delegation's departure for Washington. Before leaving Damascus today, Qaddumi said that there was a political protest over Israel's arrest of members in the Palestinian delegation. Qaddumi said that the Palestinian side is continuing in the peace process to prove to the world that Israel is obstructing the process. He said Israel lost its nerve because the world supported the Arabs' peaceful stand. He noted, however, that the upcoming round of talks cannot result in any tangible results because of Israel's intransigent stands.

Kuwaiti Parliamentary Speaker Arrives 15 Feb

JN1602201592 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 16 Feb 91

[Text] 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id, Kuwaiti National Council speaker, and his delegation arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a visit to Syria that will last for several days.

He was received at Damascus International Airport by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, a number of the assembly members, the assembly's secretary, and the Kuwaiti ambassador and embassy staff.

'Abd-al-'Aziz al-'As'usi, official spokesman for the Kuwaiti National Council speaker and head of the National Council's Legal and Legislative Committee, made a statement to a SANA correspondent, lauding Syria's brotherly and pan-Arab stance, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, and Syria's siding with Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion. He also commended Syria's help, support, and effective contribution to the liberation of the State of Kuwait from the unjust aggression by the head of the Iraqi regime.

He added: We are here with our brothers in Damascus, in our second country, at the invitation of the Syrian People's Assembly, to express our great thanks to the Syrian people, government, and leader for their historic siding with right against aggression, and their help in liberating Kuwait.

He went on to say: Our visit aims to promote and consolidate relations between the two brotherly countries in all fields, especially parliamentary areas, as well as cultural and trade areas, in the interest of the two countries.

Concluding his statement, al-'As'usi hoped the visit of the National Council delegation will deepen and consolidate common brotherly ties.

The Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation is scheduled to meet with party and state officials to cement and promote relations between the two brotherly states.

Meets Speaker Qaddurah

JN1702070692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah received Kuwaiti National Council Speaker 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id and his delegation this evening in the presence of Shakir Is'ayyid, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee; and 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim, Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus.

Qaddurah stressed Syria's principled and constant positions under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad on crucial pan-Arab issues.

For his part, al-Masa'id thanked Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, for its honorable pan-Arab position which effectively contributed toward liberating Kuwait.

During the meeting, they discussed parliamentary relations between the two fraternal countries, and the need to develop them in the service of the two countries' common interests, and of the Arab nation.

Received by al-Zu'bi

JN1702151692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Excerpts] At 1130 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Kuwaiti National Council Speaker 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id and his parliamentary delegation. [passage omitted]

Mr. al-Masa'id and the members of the Kuwaiti National Council expressed their admiration for Syria's pan-Arab role, under His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership, in furthering Arab solidarity and joint Arab action. They conveyed the gratitude of the amir, people, and government of Kuwait to the president, people, and government of Syria for their honorable support of Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion, in the tradition of Syria's principled pan-Arab policies. [passage omitted]

Confers With Khaddam

JN1702201392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] At 1230 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Kuwaiti National Council Speaker 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id and his delegation. Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the People's Assembly Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee, and Kuwaiti Ambassador Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim attended the meeting.

Mr. al-Masa'id expressed the thanks and gratitude of the Kuwaiti Government, National Council, and people for Syria's noble position, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, during the invasion of Kuwait, and Syria's contribution to the liberation of Kuwait.

Discussion during the meeting dealt with Arab and regional developments, as well as the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Delegation Departs

JN1802173292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] At 1230 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received a Kuwaiti National Council delegation headed by Council Speaker 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id. The meeting was attended by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah; Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee; and Kuwaiti Ambassador 'Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim.

Discussions dealt with the situation in the region, the developments in the Gulf, and bilateral relations. The delegation expressed Kuwait's high appreciation for the Syrian pan-Arab and principled stances, and the noble Arab position it adopted from the very beginning of the invasion of Kuwait, and the efforts it made to help in the liberation.

The president thanked the delegation members for their feelings and emphasized that Syria does not bargain on pan-Arab causes and does not compromise over any error that encroaches on the vital causes of the nation.

Kuwaiti National Council Speaker 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id and his delegation left Damascus this afternoon at the end of a three-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, several Assembly members, the Kuwaiti ambassador, and embassy staff.

[Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic at 1215 GMT on 18 February in a similar report adds: "Earlier in the morning, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Mr. al-Masa'id and his delegation. Is'ayyid and al-Jasim also attended the meeting. Talks centered on Arab developments and ways to develop relations between the two fraternal countries."]

Iran

Ayatollah Khamene'i Addresses Qom Citizens

LD1902230892 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1610 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Address by His Eminence Aytollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to Qom citizens at the shrine of Ma'sumeh on 19 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Crowd shouts: "We are all your soldiers, Khamene'i, ready to receive your orders, Khamene'i"] Thank you very much, thank you, please allow me...please allow me to...please, please. [crowd continues to chant slogans]

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Once again I congratulate you on the occasion of this festive day [Imam Mahdi birth anniversary], particularly this festive day, as it brings hope because it stands face to face against the atmosphere of despair, which the arrogants want to create before the eyes of the deprived people of the world.

If you look at the activities and designs of the arrogance, you will see that their most important task is to create before the eyes of the people an atmosphere of despair toward developments which should take place. Nations must not lose hope of attaining morality in order that the weapon of arrogance will have no effect. If nations are hopeful and remain hopeful, then arrogance's weapon will not be so effective. They try to create a dark atmosphere before the eyes of nations, a dark atmosphere in order to make nations believe that their natural power, their culture, their beliefs, and their national personality and identity can achieve nothing for them, and that the major powers should help them in order that they can make progress. That is what the world arrogance wants nations to believe.

I also want to mention another point, which is in fact the continuation of the same issue. We can wait for the savior Mahdi only if we prepare the ground, prepare the ground for the appearance of the promised Mahdi—may our souls be sacrificed for him. This means to apply Islamic rules and regulations, and also the government of the Koran and Islam. [passage omitted]

Therefore the struggles of the world arrogance—the enemies of religion, and the infidel—animosity, and arrogance against the Islamic Republic [of Iran] began. What is necessary for us to know, and for all our beloved nation to know, is that divine traditions have done their work. Despite the pressures that the enemy has brought to bear against the Islamic Republic and our beloved country, Iran, thanks to God, the endeavors undertaken have come to fruition. [Crowd chants: "God is great", "Khamene'i is the leader", "Death to America", "Death to Israel"]

This must be considered as one of Islam's miracles. Today, those who face the task of forming a government in some countries wonder if they can shoulder this heavy burden with such a gap that has been created between the wealthy and poor nations. [passage omitted: same theme] The Islamic Republic, thanks to God, in various and diverse dimensions, has achieved great successes: In construction of the country, in public opinion and morals, in the cultural field and propagation of Islamic culture, in independence and revival of talents and the bringing of the masses to the arena—a people that was outside the arena during the oppressive royal rule. No one paid any attention to the people. Whatever there was, was in the hands of the powers who were sole arbiters who did as they pleased. The nations were nobodies. The Islamic Republic had the good fortune to break the dam which had been erected down the centuries, so that the nation became the arbiter and the state authorities became obliged to heed the nation's vote, the nation's wishes and views. And this is the best method for the revolution to remain safe. [Crowd chants: "God is Great", "Khamene'i is the Leader", "Death to America," "Death to Israel"]

The important point is that our nation, thanks be to God, has achieved awareness. Our nation is intelligent. The hands of arrogance are investing massively in propaganda efforts throughout the world, but such propaganda leaves no impact on our nation. [passage omitted: same theme]

Today, the global arrogance succeeds in changing governments in the world by manipulating them through its propaganda machinery; it takes some rulers away and replaces them with others by propaganda. That is how effective the propaganda machinery of the global arrogance is when dealing with rootless regimes who do not rely on their peoples. Yet our nation is endowed with a special base, and that is its faith in the path which the imam—that exceptional, great and extraordinary leader—has charted. Of course, the great God was kind to this nation and so was the Hidden Imam; they helped the nation.

Thanks to God, our officials are also working hard—each in his own way making sincere efforts. And God is also kind to them and crowns their efforts with success. As a result, they achieve great progress both in political and economic fields. God willing, through your patience we will achieve such a situation in the near future that could provide an example for Muslims of other nations and maybe non-Muslim nations to learn from—to learn from this regime which is the system for life and for construction of the nation. Thus, Islam can show its constructive face to the world. [Crowd chants: "God is Great", "Death to America"]

What I want to add to these points is that today our nation and all the nations of the world, especially the Muslim nations, must diagnose the major ailments of humanity correctly so that foreign propaganda may not

succeed in presenting wrong thoughts and wrong inferences on realities of the world.

What the nations of the world must know—thanks be to God that our nation knows it well—is that the main agony of humanity today is the hegemony of arrogant powers which know no bounds. That is the basis of the problems and pains of the nations.

Today there are nations which are hungry while sitting on vast God-given wealth. There are nations which cannot utilize their water and soil and natural resources. Foreign corporations come to their territory and make themselves rich while those nations are left hungry.

Today many nations are under the thumb of corrupt and oppressive governments. Many of these countries are afflicted by rulers who think of nothing but amassing wealth and satisfying their animal- like appetite. [passage omitted: same theme]

Today, many nations unfortunately cannot gain from their own talents, and if they do find among their own people a handful of educated individuals, they are tempted by the money offered by the superpowers. [passage omitted] That is a brain drain—or indeed it is brain robbery. This is one of the pains of the nations. The nations suffer from the pains of poverty, ignorance, oppreession, corruption and cultural decadence. But what I want to say is that if today a domineering power like America did not rule over the world and did not support the other corrupt rulers in other countries, the situation of the nations of the world would be different. [passage omitted]

One of the characteristics of an arrogant power is that it looks at all the world as a region which is its own, or it has the right to make use of it. It has to strengthen an area because it is in its interest. It strengthens it regardless. Look how Israel is supported by America today. The Israel that, following its usurping of the Palestinian nation's right, does not allow any rights for its neighboring nations. Whenever it finds an opportunity, it commits aggression. Today it shows its aggression against Lebanon. If one day it considers it necessary, it will aggress against Jordan or Syria. What will stop a regime which, within the occupied Palestinian territories, does not give the people of that territory any right to life and dignity of living? It does not let them even live in their own homes. Those who raise their voice against the pressure of the Zionist forces, it shuts them up, suppresses them with violence. If it wants, it does not implement any of the international agreements which are acceptable norms for world governments. Any agreements that holds the slightest difficulty for it, it sets it aside. Such a brutal, impudent indifference to human laws and international laws!

Yet America supports such a regime! If a government which is not in the service of American interests embarks on actions less like those which Israel embarks on today, do you realize what American propaganda would do to that government?

In the episode of the martyrdom of the leader and secretary general of the Lebanese Hizballah, the late Sayyid 'Abbas Musawi—that martyred, sincere combatant mojahed—the Zionist helicopters entered the airspace of another country, freely moved in that country, put a spot under surveillance, struck at a civilian motorcade with missiles, killed the man, killed the woman and the small child. Look what stance the world arrogance has taken vis-a- vis this obvious crime—behavior which leaves not the slightest doubt about its criminality. What does terrorism mean? Is terrorism something different from this? To attack the unarmed, to attack people's wives and children, to attack people's homes, to abduct the owner of a house from his home, to destroy, to kill, and to torture! What then is terrorism?

Do the Americans, the U.S. regime, and the organization which claims to support human rights, claims to oppose terrorism, not understand that this is what terrorism means? Do they not realize that state terrorism means what the usurping Zionist regime has been doing for 40-odd years? Or they do? When nations notice that in the dictionary of American arrogance such culture and words are misused and abused, then it is fitting for a nation to object when America calls it a terrorist nation.

The Americans have put some names on the list of terrorists. How dare they! If anyone is to be put on a list of terrorists, the American regime should be the first, which is more terrorist than others and is the supporter of the most evil of the world regimes, i.e., the Zionist regime. [Crowd chants: "God is Great", "Death to America", "Death to Israel"]

Today, enemies of Islam and enemies of the Koranic sovereignty no longer hide their opposition and hostility toward Islam and its sovereignty. They used to hide it. They used to claim that they supported what nations wanted. They used to claim that they did not oppose peoples' religions, beliefs, and their ideology. But the passage of time helped the realization of divine traditions.

Peoples' awakening, their support for Islam, their presence on the scenes, and efforts of Muslim nations have put the arrogant ones in a weak and defensive position. They have been forced to openly declare their opposition to Islamic government and Islamic sovereignty. They have been forced to admit that. That is one of the contradictions in their lives. [passage omitted]

Today the great agony of humanity is, as I have already mentioned, the existence, over the nations of the hegemony of arrogance, led by the champion of the arrogant powers, the American regime.

The American influence in various countries is detrimental to their interests. America's interference in the affairs of nations is detrimental to their interests. America's presence, and the presence of its forces, whether military or economic, in any region of the world bring losses and corruption to that region.

Today Americans have caused a situation in the world such that governments do not dare discuss realities or even mention them explicitly. When our president mentions the realities in an international circle, in an international conference, in the Islamic Conference, then others come and say that we agree with what you are saying. But they do not dare utter those words. The arrogants are throwing their weight around in the world in such a way that governments... [changes thought] Of course these are governments that do not rely on their nations; a government that relies on its nation does not fear America. Americans have created a situation whereby governments that do not rely on their people are scared and do not dare raise any objection.

I only tell you that throughout the world the only nation and government that bravely and powerfully announces its stances and beliefs in a unified voice is you, the Iranian nation. Other nations either do not possess this unity —which they don't—or this thought does not exist widely among them; they are not in one with their authorities, they do not say the same things, and do not think in the same way. Here and there some may be found who speak just words. This is different to Iran. It is one of the characteristics of you, the great and valiant nation, under the auspices of the Islamic Republic—under the auspices of the Valiy- e Asr [guardian of the age, or the 12th imam], May our souls be sacrificed for him, that you can defend your Koran, your Islam, your sanctities, your chastity and purity, and your Islamic values with all your being.

The nation, as well as the government officials and the people's deputies in the Majles, all should say—and do say—this independence, this valiance, this stand in the face of the bullying world arrogance, is today, thank God, special to this nation and state. This is the very thing which has beset arrogance with animosity and spite toward this state and nation. But let me tell you that this is also a result of divine promise, to the effect that animosity and spite by arrogance cannot do anything [against the nation and state]. [passage omitted on Koranic reference]

Never climb down from your position. Do not feel weak in front of the enemy. It is he who is weak. He who has based things on lies, deception, and bullying, is weak. You, who rely on God, are strong.

Today something may seem out of reach in the world. When we talk about the liberation of Palestine, it seems distant and out of reach to some. When we talk of the sovereignty of Islam in Muslim states, some may consider this to be out of reach and unlikely. But our era is the era of great and exceptional deeds.

Who would have believed that in the 20th century world, with all the anti-religious struggles, in this crucial area of the world, a system based on religion should be founded, and the leadership of Islam should fall into the hands of that exalted, spiritual leader [Ayatollah Khomeyni]. No one believed it but it happened. Who would have believed that the Soviet system, which ruled over almost one third of the world in various countries and in five continents should disintegrate so? [passage omitted repeating same theme] If five years ago someone had said such a thing nobody would have accepted and believed it. But this unbelievable thing happened.

Who would have thought that in Islamic states, Islamic movements would take hold to such an extent, that the nations would awaken to such an extent that in a country like Algeria the people would choose Islam with their vote in the election? And [who would have thought that] elections, on the basis of Western democracy, would come to a point where the harbingers of Western democracy oppose it; that Islam would become victorious? Who would have believed it? But it came about!

Today divine promise tells us that if you continue this same unity, this faith, this steadfastness in the arenas of revolution, the same loyalty to the exalted imam's line, the same fearlessness toward the dominant world-devouring arrogance, then by the grace of God all your other objectives will also be granted; one of which is the annihilation and disintegration of world arrogance. [passage omitted]

This is a divine promise, and no doubt it will be implemented, even if many do not like it or do not approve of it.

It is the same outlook which provides us with hope, and it is the same hope that Islamic teaching has offered us to await the saviour. God willing, clear horzons, one after the other, await the nation that moves and steps forward. [passage omitted praying for the people of Qom]

God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Israeli Attack Executed With 'Western Blessing'

LD2002101792 Tehran IRNA in English 0738 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 20, IRNA—Israel has been waging a terrorist campaign on Lebanese and Palestinian territories to punish the two peoples because of their unbending determination to fight occupation and live in honor with freedom, said 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' Thursday. The editorial in the English daily was referring to the last Sunday Zionist helicopter attack on the motorcade of Hizballah leader Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abbas al-Musawi, his family and aides in South Lebanon in which they were all martyred. The attack came 16 hours after an earlier strike on the Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon.

"For its part, the world community refused to deplore the criminal act," it said adding "Israeli allies who provide the tools for such gross violations, simply expressed concern at the rising cycle of violence and, as usual, called for restraint on all sides." "With western blessing, Israel has never had much difficulty in finding an audience prepared to listen to its version of what is terrorism and how it can be dealt with."

Lebanon's liberation movements and Muslim militants have vowed revenge and Israel on Monday officially announced that the rocket- firing helicopter raids were part of a wider campaign that will continue for a long period against Hizballah and Palestinian activists. "It is indeed hard to see how further violence and loss of innocent life will be avoided," the daily concluded.

Imam Jannati—Lebanon Events To Favor Hizballah

LD2002120892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0900 GMT 20 Feb 92

[From the "In Line with People, In Step with Officials" studio phone-in/discussion program—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Announcer] As your are aware, His Excellency Ayatollah Jannati went to Lebanon as the representative of the eminent leader [Khamene'i] on the occasion of the martyrdom of Sayyid 'Abbas al- Musawi, the secretary general of Lebanon's Hizballah Movement. Welcome to our program Mr Jannati. When did you come back from Lebanon?

[Jannati] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. [passage omitted expressing felicitations and condolences]. I returned from Lebanon last night, where on the orders of the eminent leader, I took part in the funeral ceremony, which enabled me to personally witness the state the people were in. They were undergoing very intense fervor, which reminded me of the fervor demonstrated by the people in the wake of the demise of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, sanctified be his soul. A massive number of people participated in the ceremony which indicated their high esteem for the position of Hizballah, and the demised martyr [shahid] Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi. The people were extremely tense and worried, in particular since the Israeli and Zionist attacks and raids against villages in southern Lebanon had intensified after the martyrdom of martyr al-Musawi, inflicting great dmage and casualties. In a nutshell, the situation in Lebanon is very tense and extraordinary. But what is encouraging is the people's constant courage; they are not afraid of martyrdom. Their sole concern is the present situation, but the dispatch of a delegation by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may God protect him, provided them and Hizballah with a morale boost, especially since President Hashemi- Rafsanjani's representative was also present, reading out his message.

[Announcer] Thank you very much. In general, Mr Jannati, how do you assess the present situation in Lebanon, especially in the light of the recent martyrdom?

[Jannati] I see the situation developing in favor of Hizballah, and as history has shown us these events have not harmed us in any way, even though the loss of our dear ones causes us grief. [passage omitted]. The enemy thinks that by martyring one, two, or tens of our dear ones, it will undermine the revolution, and that the dear Hizballahi and revolutionary brothers will retreat; But they are wrong, since not only it will increase the hatred of the world's pious people for the enemy, but it will also automatically weaken the enemy's morale. It will increase the pious people's support and leaning toward the Hizballah and revolutionary faction, boosting their morale. In addition it will consolidate their [Hizballah's] spirit of revenge, preparing them to inflict heavier blows on the enemy. The enemy is not aware of such factors, since as is usually the case, those in positions of power become intoxicated by their power, and at present such intoxication has affected America and Israel in the region. But, God willing, slaps in the face from the Hizballah faction and world revolutionaries will raise them to consciousness. [passage omitted]

IPCC on 'Martyrdom' of Hizballah's al-Musawi

LD2002121592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] The Islamic Publicity Coordination Council [IPCC] announced: Simultaneous with today's memorial service by the eminent leader, in honor of the martyrdom of the resistant cleric Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi at the Martyr Mottahari seminary in Tehran, various services and ceremonies will also be held throughout the country in tribute to the selfless and devoted cleric and his relentless struggles.

The IPCC has called on all people to participate in these ceremonies, announcing: Various strata of people are called on to demonstrate their support and consolation for the oppressed Lebanese and Palestinian nation and the perpetual anger and hatred of the world Muslims for the perpetrators of this crime, by attending the Friday Prayers venues throughout the country, tomorrow, where they will be honoring the memory of martyr Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi and his entourage.

Official Confirms Rushdie Edict, Raises Bounty

LD2002024292 Tehran IRNA in English 1539 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Isfahan, Feb. 19, IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Sane'i, personal representative of the leader of the Islamic revolution in charge of the 15th-Khordad foundation said here Wednesday that the foundation will pay upwards of dlrs. [dollars] one million to ensure that the Indian-born British writer Salman Rushdie is executed.

He said Imam Khomeyni's edict for killing Rushdie on charges of blaspheming Islam in his *The Satanic Verses* cannot be commuted or modified at political circles here and there.

Some days after the issue of Imam Khomeyni's death edict against Rushdie on February 14, 1989, the 15th-Khordad foundation said in a communique that it would pay dlrs. one million to anyone who should carry out the edict.

Meeting With Rushdie Advocate 'Unforgiveable'

LD1902172492 Tehran IRNA in English 1026 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA—The morning daily "ABRAR" Tuesday commented on denial of the Iranian Embassy in London over a meeting between a local employee of the embassy and Dr. Frances d'Souza as a representative of the International Committee for the Defence of the Sentenced Apostate Salman Rushdie.

"In fact the Iranian Embassy in London by issuing such a press release has implicitly tried to blame its local employee for the unforgivable mistake," wrote the paper in referrence to the Monday denial.

It argued whether the employee, who naturally receives instructions from the senior staff, acted on his own or had an advance permission?

"What is clear from the press release is that the embassy officials had prior knowledge of the case."

"The statement states clearly that Ms. d'Souza in a written request on February 7, 1992 in her capacity as director of the International Center to Campaign Censorship, had requested a meeting at the embassy."

Faced with her insistence, the embassy agreed to let her convey her request to the embassy through a local employee, the paper noted.

"The fact is that Iranian Embassy in London does not deny the meeting with Rushdie's supporters and was waiting to see the reaction to the move inside the country and in absence of any noticable reaction take the subsequent steps."

However, the disclosure of the issue and the negative reactions prompted the embassy to seek a solution to cool down the public sentiments and thus save itself from criticisms of the world Muslims in this regard.

Informed sources in Tehran say that probably the move was a concession by the Iranian Foreign Ministry to the British Government vis-a-vis Tehran-London political ties.

Because during the last week visit of a British delegation to Tehran, London agreed to reopen the consular section of its embassy here.

"Therefore, it could be claimed that the move was followed by the Iranian Embassy in London which made the preparations for this disgraceful meeting," the article concluded.

The fatwa against Rushdie carries death penalty for insulting the sanctities of Islam in his highly sacrilegious novel *The Satanic Verses.*

Turkey's Ozal Departs Tehran, Praises Relations

LD1902184492 Tehran IRNA in English 1039 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 18, IRNA—Turkish President Turgut Ozal wound up a three-day official visit to Tehran after taking part in the summit meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and left here Tuesday morning.

President Ozal was seen off at the airport by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Energy Minister Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh and several other high-ranking officials.

At the closing of the two-day summit, President Ozal told reporters that Tehran and Ankara enjoyed good neighbourly relations.

As for the membership of Afghanistan in ECO, he said that Afghanistan could join the organization "if a solution is found to the Afghan problem."

On inclination of Romania to join the organization, Ozal stated that Romania plays an active role in Balkan and is in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Zone.

Asked whether ECO will become a political and social force on international scene as well as being a regional economic grouping, he said the organization "is basically for economic activities and we would like to keep it that way. Certainly there will be some politics involved in any case."

On economic gains of the summit, he said they are included in the final declaration and that tariff and non-tariff barriers among the members will be lifted in a reasonable time and also measures are underway concerning subsidies of exports.

On Tehran-Ankara relations, he said "we get along with Iran very well they are our neighbours... In Turkey there are different views than the Iranian views but I accept their views and they accept ou views."

Pakistan

Spokesman—Nuclear Talks With U.S. 'Encouraging'

BK1902154692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Pakistan and the United States have decided to continue dialogue on the nuclear issue and cooperation in the fields in which it is possible. A Foreign Office spokesman has said that the foreign secretary, who is now in Washington, was encouraged by his talks with the U.S. officials. The spokesman clarified that the foreign secretary never said that the United States would issue the certificate that Pakistan does not possess a nuclear weapons capability by October this year. He only said that the talks were very encouraging.

On Afghanistan, the spokesman said Pakistan is trying to encourage various groups and parties to participate in the proposed Afghan assembly to set up an interim government in Afghanistan. The UN secretary general's personal envoy, Benon Sevon, is continuing the process of consultation with various groups to organize the Afghan assembly in accordance with the UN secretary general's formula.

Siddique on 'Peaceful' Nuclear Policy

BK2002112692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, has said Pakistan stands for a solution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with relevant UN resolutions.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said these resolutions call for granting the right of self-determination to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Both India and Pakistan as well as the United Nations are committed to implement these resolutions. The minister of state spoke of the prevailing precarious conditions in the held territory and said it was a direct result of the oppressive Indian policy and apathy of the world in the past to the cause of the Kashmiris. He said the people of occupied Kashmir have time and again rejected the Indian stand on Kashmir and even in the last so- called election, they had boycotted the polls.

Referring to the nuclear issue, he reaffirmed peaceful nature of Pakistan's nuclear policy. However, he said Pakistan has acquired certain technical capability in the nuclear field. But he made it clear that a political decision has been taken at the highest level to use this capability only for peaceful purposes. Pakistan is not producing nuclear weapons, does not possess a nuclear explosive device, nor has any intention to make one.

UN Urged To Send Fact-Finding Team to Kashmir

BK1902143292 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] Pakistan has drawn the attention of the United Nations toward the grave situation in occupied Kashmir. In a letter to the UN secretary general, the minsiter of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo, has called upon the world body chief to investigate the grave situation prevailing in the held valley through the dispatch of a fact-finding mission or through any other appropriate measure. Pakistan has appealed to the world body to stop India from committing human rights violations and let the Kashmiris decided their destiny as guaranteed in the UN Resolutions and in accordance with their wishes. A foreign office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the letter gave a detailed account of massive human rights violations and denial of fundamental freedom in occupied Kashmir by the Indian forces.

Jammu-Kashmir Minister on 'Curbing' JKLF

BK1902142892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] The prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir [AJK] , Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, has said the sacrifices being made by the people in occupied Kashmir will lead ultimately to their victory. He was talking to newsmen in Rawalpindi today. He lauded Pakistan's policy on Kashmir and said as a result of this firm policy, the world has now a better understanding of the Kashmir issue. He said that a solution of the Kashmir issue could provide the everlasting peace in the region. He urged Indian leaders to accept the right of self-determinationm of Kashmiris according to the UN resolutions.

In reply to a question, Sardar Mohammad Abdul Qayyum Khan said the AJK Government could consider curbing the activities of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front if it does not stop activities contrary to the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and their cause.

*JKLF Chief Explains Decision To Violate Border

92AS09574A Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 16 Jan 92 p 10

[Article by JKLF Chief Amanullah Khan: "Why We Decided To Violate Line of Control"]

[Text] In light of the situation within the country and international reaction to Kashmir's independence campaign, and after discussions with my senior advisors, I announced in a press conference in Islamabad on 11 December 1991 that thousands of unarmed members of the JKLF [Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front] and other patriots will cross the Line of Control on 11 February 1992 (which is the 8th anniversary of the death of Maqbul Batt who gave his life for Kashmir) and enter occupied Kashmir. Several organizations in occupied Kashmir decided that they will do their best to welcome the "caravan of freedom" coming from Azad Kashmir. The JKLF Central Committee met on 22 December 1991 to discuss all aspects of my declared plan and established five committees to work on this historical event. Some senior members of the diplomatic department of our organization who are living abroad will handle international publicity under my leadership. The second committee chaired by Senior Vice Chairman Raja Mohammad Muzaffar will be responsible for publicity in Azad Kashmir with the help of the Jammu-Kashmir Students Liberation Front (SLF). The political bureau of the organization has established a committee under the chairmanship of the head of the bureau, Zahid Amin Kashif. This committee with work with the SLF and will be responsible for public relations. A committee under the leadership of our central treasurer, Pirzada Ghulam Mustafa Alvi, will be responsible for collecting funds for this campaign. The fifth committee under my leadership will make important decisions about this campaign. The five committees have already started their work.

Let us take a look at the benefits of the 11 February 1992 operation for our freedom campaign.

1. Even though almost all the political parties in Azad Kashmir consider Jammu and Kashmir an indivisible political entity, no exceptional, scientific, joint, and openly declared action was taken in this direction. Even though thousands of young men from occupied Kashmir have crossed this bloodstained line secretly during the last three years, no one made a joint effort to cross the bloodstained line from this side. God willing, the 11 February 1992 effort will prove to be a cornerstone in our campaign for the state's independence.

2. The 11 February 1992 step would be an open indication of the unity of the people living on this side of the bloody Line of Control with their compatriots on the other side.

3. We are publicizing this campaign at the international level for the first time on 11 February 1992 and will inform the world about the Kashmir issue, the independence movement, atrocities of Indian soldiers in occupied Kashmir, and will influence the world opinion. The Line of Control in Kashmir has divided our country exactly the same way as the Berlin Wall divided the former capital of Germany. Therefore, the world should support breaking the Line of Control the same way as it supported breaking the Berlin Wall. Thus, our effort will get international publicity for the Kashmir issue and get support for the independence campaign. I am sure that dozens of members of the international news media will come to Kashmir on 11 February 1992 and help publicize it internationally. Some people connected with international news media have already contacted me about it. In addition, we are already informing the UN secretary general, members of the Security Council, international leaders, government heads of important nations, and international organizations about India's bestial activities that have forced us to take this action. We have appealed to them for moral support.

4. The people in occupied Kashmir, especially in the Kashmir valley, have been fighting against the Indian army's atrocities patiently for the last three and one-half years. Our campaign will give them new courage that will not only help the freedom campaign, but will push it to a decisive stage. The Indian army's plans to totally crush the Kashmir independence campaign this summer will be ruined.

5. The people of Azad Kashmir will have direct contact with the people in occupied Kashmir as the result of this attempt. We will see the situation there with our own eyes. In addition, such mutual contacts will help the freedom campaign.

6. Whatever the reason or background of this situation, we have to admit the bitter fact that we, the people of Azad Kashmir, Giglit, Balistan, and the Jammu-Kashmir refugees living in Pakistan, have not done even 1 percent of what we should have done during the last three and one-half years that was our national and moral duty as the residents of this state. Those living on the other side of the Line of Control, especially in the Kashmir valley, have made unprecedented sacrifices of life and property as well as their honor. The people of occupied Kashmir are justly complaining about the attitude of the Kashmiris living on this side. After the 11 February 1992 action, this valid complaint of the people of occupied Kashmir will be removed.

7. If the unarmed people are fired upon on 11 February 1992 at the Line of Control, the sacred blood of the martyrs thus shed will mix with the blood of thousands of martyrs in occupied Kashmir and will give new life to the freedom campaign. If people are arrested during this event, these arrests will demonstrate our unity of purpose with the people of occupied Kashmir.

8. The present lack of allegiance to the freedom campaign on the other side of Line of Control will change into full involvement after 11 February 1992. This will strengthen the freedom campaign.

9. If the attitude of the people living on this side of the Line of Control remained as is now then the history of Kashmir will never forgive them. Their total participation in the 11 February 1992 event will protect them from the punishment that history of Kashmir will mete out.

10. Many young people of Azad Kashmir have asked us during the last three years to send them to occupied Kashmir so they could prove themselves to be patriotic Kashmiris. However, I could not grant their wishes for several reasons. The 11 February event will provide the opportunity to fulfill their sacred desire.

11. Various political parties, their leaders, and members have expressed their association with the freedom campaign and their patriotism throughout the statements published in the newspapers during the last three years. Their claim will be tested on 11 February and the nation will know about those who are really participating in the freedom campaign.

This is a glimpse of the benefits of the 11 February 1992 event. We cannot ignore the fact that there are some dangers involved, however, courageous actions are unavoidable when one wants to attain common exalted goals. According to a famous scholar, only those who dare are able to live in this world.

Some circles are expressing their doubts about the 11 February 1992 event referring to the 1958, 11 February 1990, and 3 April 1991 attempts. Let us compare these three efforts with the steps planned for 11 February 1992.

As for the failure of the efforts of late Chowdhury Ghulam Abbas' 1958 efforts, the basic reason was the arrests of Chowdhury Abbas, late K.H. Khursheed, and the whole leadership before the march began. The campaign could not be organized effectively. Opposed to it, Sardar Abdul Qayum Khan, Azad Kashmir's prime minister, has openly announced in a press conference that the governments of Azad Kashmir and Pakistan will

not interfere in the 11 February event. In addition, there was peace in occupied Kashmir in 1958. The goals (except for the first goal) of this campaign were different from the 11 February 1992 event. Many stories are heard about the failure of the 1958 KLM campaign, however, I want to stay out of this argument.

Nawaz Sharif Returns From Iran, Qatar

BK1902143792 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, flew into Islamabad this afternoon after his official visits to Iran and Qatar. When asked at the airport about the BBC report regarding Kashmir, the prime minister reiterated that Pakistan was committed to the right of self-determination for the people of Kashmir in accordance with the UN Security Council's resolutions. The right of self-determination for the Kashmiri people was reaffirmed in the Tehran declaration during the recently concluded ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] summit, he added.

Prime Minister's Remarks on Afghanistan Criticized

BK2002074792 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 19 Feb 92 p 10

[Editorial: "PM's 'Remark' on Afghan Policy"]

[Text] Going to the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] meet in Teheran, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif seems to have given all the wrong signals about his Afghan policy. On a query about inclusion of Afghanistan in the Economic Cooperation Organisation, the prime minister is reported to have said that it would be done 'as soon as Najibollah's regime is ended and an Islamic government of Mojahedin is installed in place for holding elections'. One would not read too much into these 'pre-conditions' because after inclusion of the Central Asian Republics, which were once part of the USSR, Pakistan would have but a single vote should it choose to exercise that against the inclusion of Afghanistan. The preference of the Central Asians for the Najibollah regime, as opposed to the 'fundamentalist' Mojahedin that Nawaz Sharif proposes to install in Kabul, is well-known. Pakistan is also unlikely to get any support from its two founding partners of the ECO, Turkey and Iran, on the issue. The Iranians have been lately more for Najibollah and his regime than for Mojahedin; they have not only accepted the UN formula, which recognises Najibollah as a bona fide party to the conflict, but have also recently sent planes with aid supplies to Kabul after a calamity struck a province. Turkey's sympathy for the 'Western-proposed solution to the Afghan problem', is also well-known. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's 'pre-conditions' for Afghanistan's entry in the ECO, thus, seem irrelevant.

Even more pertinent than this remark are the wrong signals that the prime minister seems to have given at home and abroad with his support of Mojahedin Islamic government in Kabul. That seems to be a clear break from the position taken by his minister for foreign affairs, Sidddique Kanjoo, not long ago that 'Pakistan would support the UN formula for peace, with or without Mojahedin'. The reason for this second 'Somersault' of the Pakistan government on Afghan policy relate to the conflict within IJI [Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad]. Nawaz Sharif's government is under tremendous pressure from the fundamentalist factions of his alliance, particularly from Jamaat-i-Islami, after its declaration against the 'change in Afghan policy'. The Jama at chief, Qazi Hussain Ahmad, has already put together an alliance of the various divergent parties of the Afghan resistance to scuttle the new policy. An added pressure is the opposition from within the ruling troika which, at heart, is still committed to the old theory of installing a 'favourable government of Islamic brethren' in Kabul. The prime minister's statement before going to Teheran is indicative of the fact that the new policy has been scuttled. It looks as if Pakistan is about to isolate itself even within the ECO.

Four-Member Committee Running Sindh Affairs

BK2002033092 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 19 Feb 92 pp I, IV

[Text] Karachi—Official circle on Tuesday ruled out any changes in Sindh administration and confirm that Sindh Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali was responding positively to treatment and taking complete rest at his residence. Four doctors, two Pakistani and two from Britain, are attending him and have confined him to his bed room. Doctors insist he must take complete rest and strictly stick to the instructions of the doctors. This has helped him recover. His movements and meetings have been restricted.

Meanwhile, to run the day-to-day affairs of the government a four member committee has been formed which includes Syed Muzaffar, Hussain Shah, the Provincial Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Local Bodies Minister Tariq Javed, Pir Sibghatullah Rashidi, Raja Sain and Chief Secretary. They are allowed to discuss urgent matters with the Chief Minister who is though bed-ridden yet according to these sources is feeling much better and no more in critical condition.

The Federal Government these sources say is not inclined to introduce any change in the provincial administration and willing to allow the Chief Minister to recover fully from his illness and run the affairs of the Sindh Government.

Responding to questions, the official said that there would be no change in the Governor of the province in fact, any change can only come in case the Chief Minister is incapacitated or is not able to perform his duties due to insanity or death.

The doctors team that includes a lady doctor from England has kept the Chief Minister under observation, visiting him twice daily. According to reports Chief

Minister has been taking full rest which has helped him recover and his condition has stabilised.

There is no need for a caretaker or acting Chief Minister when the Chief Minister is still in office. It is, however, important that Home portfolio in the past has always remained with the Chief minister till PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Government handed over the portfolio to Rafiquzzaman and Jam Sadiq Ali inducted Irfanullah Khan Marwat. The Home portfolio has now been given to Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah while Irfanullah Marwat has taken over as Adviser to Chief Minister on General Administration.

These sources hold that there is no need for a change in Sindh for there is no emergency. The law and order situation is stable. The Chief Minister can be changed if the Assembly passes a vote of no confidence against him or he dies or has been incapacitated. Nothing of this has happened, they said.

For the last few days Karachi has been in the grip of rumours and callers have been asking newspaper about changes in Sindh administration and news about Jam and his illness.

On Monday, two Federal Minister Ch.Nisar Ali and Man Abdus Sattar Laleka visited Jam Sadiq Ali at Jam House and discussed with him provincial issues. They remained with him for 50 minutes and had to leave when doctors insisted they should not tax the Chief Minister any more the two ministers also visited MQM [Muhajir Qaum Movement] headquarters. It is learnt that MQM is not keen on the Senior Minister taking over as caretaker Chief Minister.

The official sources said that the Federal Minister had visited Jam to enquire after his health and they were satisfied with his medical reports.

These sources also said there was no need for Jam Sadiq Ali to go out of the country as the Britain doctors have arrived here. The doctors will stay here for some time and have recommended certain test. They believe there may be no need for the Chief Minister to undertake the journey to London.

Report on Sindh Committee Denied

BK1902153692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] A spokesman of the Sindh government has categorically denied a report published in a section of the press that a committee has been set up to run the day-to-day work of the provincial government. Describing the report as false and baseless, the spokesman said no such type of committee has been set up. The spokesman said Sindh Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali has nominated Muzaffar Hussain Shah to oversee the Sindh government's daily work and coordinate police decisions.

Sindh Leadership 'Vacuum' Viewed

BK2002034892 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Feb 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Are We Waiting for the Angels To Salvage Sindh?"]

[Text] Authority forgets a dying kind. But not the likes of our Jam of Sindh. Most reports say he is terminally sick. So seriously indeed as to be incapable of attending to his official and constitutional obligations. But there is not a soul in this land who knows how to replace him. It may in a sense be true that the Jam phenomenon was unique. To find his equal is totally out of the question. But the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan requires that when a chief minister of a province is unable to function, his replacement ought to be found without a moment's avoidable delay. That's a constitutional imperative. Not to abide by it is an offence against the fundamental law of this country. The Chief Minister's office, like that of the Prime Minister, is an elective office. For a period dictator Zia managed, through blackmail, to appropriate the power to 'nominate' his henchmen to these offices. That power has since lapsed. Just as well. The constitutional position now requires the Governor of the province (himself in far from robust shape) to convene the provincial legislative assembly and advise it to elect a leader of the house, that is, the next Chief Minister. He is not doing so. The only reason for the Governor's inaction is that he wants to know about his own future before taking the risk of summoning the assembly. Nobody believes the palbably hollow plea that the Jam is on his way to good health.

The facts on the ground, as so clearly visisble and generally known, are: that the Jam is undeniably unfit to hold the Chief Minister's office and discharge the duties of his office; that there is no effective Chief Minister in Sindh; that, till the moment of writing this, there is no evidence that the Governor concerned is moving in the matter as required by the Constitution; that there are strange goings on around the power blocks in Islamabad, which suggest some deliberate attempts to short-circuit the fundamental law of the land and, that the federal authorities are trying to prejudice the process of law and political evolution. All this adds up to conduct unbecoming of the custodians of the Constitution, most deeply to be deployed.

The predicament of the people wielding power—the President, Prime Minister and the provincial Governor—reminds one of the reckless woman who blundered into a one-way street from the wrong end and drove on till there was utter confusion which brought everything to a grinding halt. The IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] leadership's persistence in hanging on to the Jam, despite his audacious disregard of every known political norm, has now landed it in a no-go situation. That the President has also been indirectly, if not directly, playing a part in the Sindh imbroglio is no longer in much doubt. If there is anything clear in this confounded situation it

is that the federal leadership has put all its eggs in the Jam basket. And the Jam may kick the bucket any moment. As it is, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif never really had much influence over the events in Sindh which was seen as the preserve of the President. Like the woman in the one-way street, the PM and his advisers just do not know how to move forward or backward, or sideways. They have squandered all their options. They are afraid of convening the provincial assembly because they do not know how to get it to elect a leader who would keep the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] wolf at bay. The prospect of an election to bring a new provincial legislature into being is regarded by them as the ultimate in political misfortune.

While the Prime Minister's (also the President's) reluctance to take the correct course is at least understandable, however untenable it might be, the total failure of the PDA [People's Democratic Alliauce] leadership is infuriatingly short-sighted, timid and opportunistic. The People's Party in the Sindh Assembly is certainly in a position to oblige the Governor to convene a meeting of the Sindh Assembly to elect a new leader. It can also precipitate a political situation in which the powers that be are bound to follow the categorical imperative of the Constitution, that is, to call for fresh elections. Why is Ms Benazir shying away from playing her role as the leader of the Opposition? The only explanation possible is that she is feeling unequal to the task of putting her shoulder to the yoke of the cart, badly stuck as it no doubt is. And for all one can guess, she may be scared by the prospect of going back to the people who are admittedly in a profoundly nasty mood. Granted that the choices before Ms Benazir are not the rosiest possible, but if the Opposition does not steer the people out of a bad mess, what on earth is it for? Perhaps she too, is waiting for somebody to clear the mess after which her party can come into power!